

PNEUMOCOCCUS



The data

In low- and middle-income countries **RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS ACUTE PNEUMONIAS** such as Community Acquired Pneumonias (CAP) are the **MAJOR CAUSES OF HOSPITALIZATION AND DEATH** in children **UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE**.



The disease

- > Pneumococcus (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*) is a bacterium that causes pneumonia, meningitis and septicemia.
- > Pneumococcus is the main agent causing bacterial meningitis in the Region of the Americas.
- > Among the causes of death due to pneumococcal infections, pneumonia represents 81% and meningitis 12%.



Transmission

Person-to-person via saliva and respiratory droplets.



Symptoms

They depend on the disease causing pneumococcus and age:

PNEUMONIA

Under 5 years old

- > Fever
- > Rapid breathing
- > Lower chest wall retraction
- > Wheezing (although more common in viral infections)
- > Coughing and/or shortness of breath.

Babies, in addition to these symptoms, may present:

- > Seizures
- > Decreased appetite or inability to suckle or drink
- > Hypothermia
- > Loss of consciousness
- > Respiratory complaints

MENINGITIS

>1 and adults

- > Altered state of consciousness
- > Seizures
- > Headache
- > Drowsy, confused, confused state
- > Fever
- > Intolerance to light
- > Stiffness of neck
- > Prominent signs of hyperactivity
- > Projectile vomiting (explosives)

<1 year

- > Bulging at the top of the head (fontanel)
- > Seizures
- > Decreased appetite or inability to suckle or drink
- > Fever
- > Irritability without other justification
- > Drowsy state
- > Vomiting

INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

are more susceptible to infection.

This risk returns in

ADULTS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE.

Other conditions, such as overcrowding, exposure to tobacco smoke, and infections followed by the respiratory tract increase susceptibility to this disease.



Vaccines

- > 37 countries and territories in the region use the vaccine against pneumococcal disease (PCV).
- > There are 2 vaccines used in the region depending on the number of serotypes (PCV10 and PCV13).
- > One is not better than the other. **CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO SEE WHICH VACCINE YOUR COUNTRY USES.**



Calendar

Vaccination Schedule 1

- > 2 months (1st dose)
- > 4 months (2nd dose)
- > entre 12-24 meses (3rd dose)

Vaccination Schedule 2

- > 2 months (1st dose)
- > 4 months (2nd dose)
- > 6 months (3rd dose)