A Prospective Study of Infections with Atypical Pneumonia Organisms in Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Bronchitis

S K Goh,* MBBS, MRCP (UK), M Med, A Johan,** MBBS, MRCP (UK), T H Cheong,*** FAMS, M Med, MRCP (UK),
Y T Wang,**** FAMS, M Med, FRCP (Edin)

Abstract

The objective of this paper was to study the incidence of 6 atypical pneumonia pathogens or atypical organisms in local patients admitted for acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis. This is a prospective observational study. Over a period of 3 years (1995 to 1997), 90 patients admitted to a large general hospital in Singapore for acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis were tested for the following infections: Legionella, Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, influenza A, influenza B and parainfluenza viruses, using paired serological examination.

The antibiotic prescribing pattern by the attending physicians in these cases were also examined. Positive serologies were found in 31 patients (34%), of whom 26 patients (28%) had viral infections. The most common organism was influenza A with 18 positive serologies (20%). Five patients were tested positive for Legionella. There was no evidence of acute infections by Mycoplasma pneumoniae or chlamydia using serological tests.

Key words: Acute exacerbations, Atypical pneumonia organisms, Chronic bronchitis


* Consultant
Department of General Medicine

** Senior Registrar

**** Senior Consultant and Head
Department of Respiratory Medicine
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

*** Consultant
Mount Elizabeth Hospital

Address for Reprints: Dr Y T Wang, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Moulmein Road, Singapore 308433.