

Management of Bronchitis in Adults

Clinical Practice Guideline

MedStar Health

Antibiotic Stewardship

“These guidelines are provided to assist physicians and other clinicians in making decisions regarding the care of their patients. They are not a substitute for individual judgment brought to each clinical situation by the patient’s primary care provider-in collaboration with the patient. As with all clinical reference resources, they reflect the best understanding of the science of medicine at the time of publication, but should be used with the clear understanding that continued research may result in new knowledge and recommendations.”

Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment for Acute Bronchitis:

1. The evaluation of adults with an acute cough illness, or with presumptive diagnosis of uncomplicated acute bronchitis, should focus on ruling out pneumonia with chest radiography.
2. Consider for chest radiography:
 - a. Fever (temperature greater than 100.3 F or 38.0 C)
 - b. Tachycardia (heart rate > 100 bpm)
 - c. Tachypnea (respiratory rate 24 breaths per minute or higher)
 - d. Hypoxemia (pulse oxygenation < 95%)
 - e. Asymmetrical lung sounds (rales, egophony, fremitus)
 - f. Cough lasting 3 weeks or longer.
3. Empiric antibiotic therapy:
 - a. Acute Uncomplicated Bronchitis: Routine antibiotic treatment of uncomplicated bronchitis is not recommended, regardless of duration of cough.
 - b. COPD: appropriate antibiotics and adjunct therapies should be prescribed as outlined in the COPD management guideline.
 - c. Complicated Presentations: Consider empiric treatment for pneumonia in high-risk clinical scenarios, including geriatric patients, immunocompromised patients, patients with abnormal vital signs and an abnormal pulmonary examination
4. Consider/Manage Alternative Diagnoses:
 - a. Influenza – when influenza is suspected, appropriate diagnostic testing and treatment should be utilized as clinically indicated.
 - b. Pertussis – when pertussis infection is suspected, empiric antimicrobial therapy should be initiated.

DEFINITIONS

Antimicrobial stewardship refers to coordinated interventions designed to improve and measure the appropriate use of antimicrobials by promoting the selection of the optimal antimicrobial drug regimen, dose, duration of therapy, and route of administration. Antimicrobial stewards seek to achieve optimal clinical outcomes related to antimicrobial use, minimize toxicity and other adverse events, reduce the costs of health care for infections, and limit the selection for antimicrobial resistant strains. - See more at: http://www.idsociety.org/stewardship_policy/#sthash.SM1baBaC.dpuf

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