

Bacterial Pneumonias

ORGANISM	CHARACTERISTICS	COMPLICATIONS
Streptococcus pneumoniae	Most common in elderly or debilitated patients, especially those with cardiopulmonary disease and malnourished persons	May lead to empyema (pus in the pleural cavity).
Staphylococcus aureus	Often a complication of influenza or viral pneumonias or a result of blood-borne infection in intravenous drug users; seen principally in debilitated hospitalized patients, the elderly, and those with chronic lung disease	Focal inflammatory exudates or abscess formation frequent; may lead to empyema or to other infectious complications including bacterial endocarditis and brain and kidney abscesses.
Streptococcus pyogenes	Often a complication of influenza or measles.	Lung abscess.
Klebsiella pneumoniae	Most frequent in debilitated hospitalized patients and diabetic or alcoholic patients, high mortality rate in elderly patients	Considerable alveolar wall damage; leading to necrosis, sometimes with abscess formation.
Haemophilus influenza	Usually seen in infants and children but may occur in debilitated adults, most often those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.	Meningitis and epiglottitis in infants and children.
Legionella pneumophila	Infection from inhalation of aerosol from contaminated stored water most often in air conditioning systems	