Prognostic factors for mortality in invasive pneumococcal disease in adult: a system review and meta-analysis

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Risk factors associated with mortality in invasive pneumococcal disease remain unclear. The present work is a meta-analysis of studies that enrolled only patients with invasive pneumococcal disease and reported on mortality. Potentially eligible reports were identified from PubMed, CHAHL, and Web of Science, comprising 26 reports in total. Overall mortality for invasive pneumococcal disease was reported as 20.8% (95% confidence interval (CI) 17.5–24%). Factors associated with mortality were age (odds ratio (OR) 3.04, 95% CI 2.5–3.68), nursing home (OR 1.62, 95% CI 1.13–2.32), nosocomial infection (OR 2.10, 95% CI 1.52–2.89), septic shock (OR 13.35, 95% CI 4.54–39.31), underlying chronic diseases (OR 2.34, 95% CI 1.78–3.09), solid organ tumor (OR 5.34, 95% CI 2.07–13.74), immunosuppressed status (OR 1.67, 95% CI 1.31–2.14), and alcohol abuse (OR 3.14, 95% CI 2.13–4.64). Mortality rates with invasive pneumococcal disease remained high, and these findings may help clinicians provide appropriate initial treatment for this disease.

Streptococcus pneumoniae commonly colonizes the upper airway asymptomatically, and is the cause of approximately 25–50% of cases of community-acquired pneumonia and meningitis. The most severe form of pneumococcal infection, invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), includes bacteremic pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsisemia with significant morbidity and mortality. In the United States of America, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed 9.6 cases of IPD per 100,000 persons in all age groups. In England and Wales, an IPD incidence of 7 per 100,000 persons in all age groups was reported, increasing to 21 per 100,000 among persons ≥ 65 years old. The case fatality rate of IPD may reach 15–20% in adults and 30–40% in the elderly. A marked reduction in the rate of IPD due to pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and protein conjugate vaccine 13 serotypes has been reported for individuals ≥ 55 years old, with a much smaller decline in those 17–54 years old. In the prospective international observational study, the overall mortality rate of pneumococcal bacteremia was 17%. Although various articles have discussed risk factors for mortality from IPD, an overview has been lacking. This study was therefore designed to clarify prognostic factors contributing to death due to IPD.

Methods
Overview. The study protocol followed the Meta-analysis Of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) group statement and was registered to the University Hospital Medical Information Network (ID: UMIN000041377). The need for institutional review board approval was waived because of the systematic review nature of this research. H.C. and M.M. independently performed the searching process and data extraction, and subsequently built consensus results.

Search of the literature. Three major databases (Medline, CHAHL, and Web of Science) were searched on July 30, 2020. The two reviewers independently extracted and recorded data for a predefined checklist including the following items: study characteristics (i.e., country and year of study), characteristics of the cohort, and case definitions. The following search formula was used: (“invasive pneumococcal disease” OR “pneumococcal infection” OR “Streptococcus pneumoniae infection” OR “pneumococcal bacteremia”) AND (“mortality” OR “death”) AND (“odds ratio” OR “relative risk” OR “hazard ratio”).
Inclusion and exclusion criteria. No restrictions were placed on article types or publication language. To be included, a study had to include: 1) patients with IPD; 2) data outlining risk factors for 30-day mortality or in-hospital mortality after multivariable regression analysis; and 3) no restrictions on vaccination.

Exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) patients < 15 or > 65 years old only; (2) risk factors assessed by univariable analysis only; (3) risk factors assessed in categories of subgroup only; or (4) patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection only.

Definitions. IPD was defined as an illness occurring in association with the isolation of S. pneumoniae from a normally sterile body specimen including blood, cerebrospinal fluid, peritoneal, pleural or synovial fluid, or abscess aspirates or tissue specimens/swabs obtained intraoperatively, but excluding bronchoalveolar lavage. Immunosuppressed status was defined as HIV infection, splenectomy, hematological malignancy, autoimmune disorder, presence of a transplant, or cancer chemotherapy within 4 weeks before the onset of bacteremia. Septic shock was defined as sepsis-induced hypotension, persisting despite adequate fluid resuscitation, along with the presence of hypoperfusion abnormalities or organ dysfunction.

Outcomes. Potential prognostic factors were defined in this study as any clinical information related to mortality such as age, sex, underlying diseases, focus of infection, and place of infection acquisition. Risk factors for 30-day and in-hospital mortalities were analyzed separately if > 3 articles were found in each subgroup.

Quality assessment. Two reviewers independently assessed the methodological quality of selected studies using the Newcastle–Ottawa Scale quality assessment to evaluate the quality of observational studies. Disagreements among reviewers were discussed, with agreement reached by consensus.

Statistics. All analyses were performed using Review Manager version 5.3 (Cochrane Collaboration, Oxford, UK). Figures illustrated using Review Manager were adjusted as necessary. Prognostic factors for 30-day and in-hospital mortality rates were merged because of their similarity after meta-analysis. Heterogeneity evaluated using I² statistics was interpreted as follows: I² = 0%, no heterogeneity; I² > 0% but < 25%, minimal heterogeneity; I² ≥ 25% but < 50%, mild heterogeneity; I² ≥ 50% but < 75%, moderate heterogeneity; and I² ≥ 75%, strong heterogeneity.

Results

Study search. Of these 26 articles identified, 2 demonstrated data from two independent populations (Fig. 1). Our analysis thus eventually extracted data from 16 countries for 27,742 patients with IPD, of whom 5810 died.

Characteristics of included studies. The 26 articles were published between 2000 and 2020, reported from Spain and the United States (n = 3 each), Canada, Japan, Israel, South Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Taiwan (n = 2 each), and 6 other countries (n = 1 each)⁶,¹²–³⁶. Two articles from Sweden and Georgia were multi-country studies compromising patients from 5 and 10 countries (Table 1). Twenty-one studies assessed either only adults or only adults plus adolescents ≥ 15 years old. Six studies included patients with IPD at any age. Six studies included only patients with HIV infection. Only two studies discussed status of HIV infection separately and the remaining four studies classified HIV as one condition defining an immunosuppressed status. Eight studies did not discuss the status of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination, seven studies revealed missing data for vaccination status, and nine studies discussed vaccination status (vaccination rates, 0–54.5%). No study identified a relationship between vaccination and mortality in multivariable analysis. Thirteen studies assessed either only adults or only adults plus adolescents ≥ 15 years old. Six studies included patients with IPD at any age. Six studies included only patients with HIV infection. Only two studies discussed status of HIV infection separately and the remaining four studies classified HIV as one condition defining an immunosuppressed status. Eight studies did not discuss the status of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination, seven studies revealed missing data for vaccination status, and nine studies discussed vaccination status (vaccination rates, 0–54.5%). No study identified a relationship between vaccination and mortality in multivariable analysis. Thirteen studies assessed either only adults or only adults plus adolescents ≥ 15 years old. Six studies included patients with IPD at any age. Six studies included only patients with HIV infection. Only two studies discussed status of HIV infection separately and the remaining four studies classified HIV as one condition defining an immunosuppressed status. Eight studies did not discuss the status of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination, seven studies revealed missing data for vaccination status, and nine studies discussed vaccination status (vaccination rates, 0–54.5%).

Meta-analysis. According to a random-model meta-analysis, study participants > 64 years old were at higher risk of in-hospital or 30-day mortality compared to those < 65 years old in subgroups (odds ratio (OR) 3.33, 95% CI 2.58–4.31, P < 0.001 and OR 2.65, 95% CI 2.07–3.39, P < 0.001, respectively) (Fig. 2). The total effect of age > 64 years old was a high risk for overall mortality (OR 3.04, 95% CI 2.50–3.68, P < 0.001, I² = 37.2%). The I² statistic of 37.2% suggested mild heterogeneity of this model. No heterogeneity between in-hospital mortality and 30-day mortality comparisons was revealed (P = 0.21).

Patients in a state of septic shock on admission demonstrated higher risks of in-hospital and 30-day mortality (OR 19.92, 95% CI 4.97–79.82, P < 0.001 and OR 7.24, 95% CI 1.30–40.33, respectively, P = 0.02) (Fig. 3). The total effect of septic shock was a high risk for overall mortality (OR 13.35, 95% CI 4.54–39.31, P < 0.001, I² = 0%). The I² statistic of 0% suggested no heterogeneity for this model. No heterogeneity between in-hospital mortality and 30-day mortality comparisons was revealed (P = 0.37).

Residence in a nursing home and nosocomial infection were associated with higher risks of mortality compared to community-acquired infection (OR 1.62, 95% CI 1.13–2.32, P = 0.009 and OR 2.10, 95% CI 1.52–2.89, P < 0.001, respectively) (Fig. 4).
Non-community-acquired infection showed a higher risk of mortality than community-acquired infection (OR 1.87, 95% CI 1.47–2.38, P < 0.001, I² = 10.1%). The I² statistic of 10.1% suggested minimal heterogeneity of this model.

Underlying chronic diseases also showed a risk of mortality (Figure S1). Liver disease, chronic kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease were frequently discussed (OR 2.73, 95% CI 1.57–4.76, P < 0.001; OR 2.99, 95% CI 2.09–4.27, P < 0.001; and OR 1.65, 95% CI 1.25–2.19, P < 0.001, respectively). The total effect of underlying chronic disease on mortality was 2.34 (95% CI 1.78–3.09, P < 0.001). The I² statistic of 72.9% suggested strong heterogeneity for this model.

Immunosuppressed status was a prognostic factor for mortality from IPD (OR 1.51, 95% CI 1.24–1.84, P < 0.001, I² = 47%) (Figure S2). Only two studies discussed HIV infection separately (OR 4.28, 95% CI 1.98–9.24, P < 0.001, I² = 0%). Four studies discussed solid organ tumor as a risk factor for mortality (OR 5.34, 95% CI 2.04–13.74, P = 0.003, I² = 79%) (Figure S3). Alcohol abuse also increased mortality from IPD (OR 3.14, 95% CI 2.13–4.64, P < 0.001) (Figure S4).

**Discussion**

Despite the wide adoption of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination, the overall mortality rate from IPD has remained high, at 20.8%. This meta-analysis revealed older age (> 64 years old), septic shock, immunosuppressed status, underlying chronic diseases, solid organ tumor, alcohol abuse, nursing home, and nosocomial infection were prognostic factors for mortality from IPD. These results appear useful in understanding prognostic factors for mortality due to IPD because of the solid methodology in accordance with the MOOSE statement, with statistical power supported by more than 27,000 subjects.

Aging is a major risk factor for the development of virtually every lung disease, increasing both morbidity and mortality, while morbidities and mortalities from other prevalent diseases have declined or remained stable37. The conventional nuclear family model is becoming increasingly uncommon, and the majority of elder care is provided by relatives, albeit with varying patterns of involvement and responsibility across family structures38. Residence in a nursing home and nosocomial infection have been associated with the progression of aging. Comorbidity also plays an important role in affecting mortality. This study identified underlying chronic diseases, solid organ tumor, and immunosuppressed status as important factors to clinical progress.

Septic shock is a frequent complication of pneumococcal infection and causes high rates of morbidity and mortality39. The presence of septic shock on admission was the most strongly associated with risk of mortality.
Table 1. Background characteristics of the 26 studies included. \(^a\) in-hospital mortality; \(^b\) 30-day mortality; \(^c\) 28-day mortality; \(^d\) United States of America, Canada, Spain, United Kingdom, Sweden. \(^e\) South Africa, United States of America, Sweden, Spain, New Zealand, Taiwan, Argentina, Brazil, Hong Kong, and France. NOS: Newcastle–Ottawa Scale score; score ranges from 0 (worst) to 9 (best).

| Authors          | Year | Country   | N  | Mortality | Risk factors in summary                                      | NOS |
|------------------|------|-----------|----|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Farinas-Alvarez  | 2000 | Spain     | 156| 33.9\%\(^a\)| Age, severity of illness, development of complications, parenteral nutrition | 7   |
| Kalin            | 2000 | Sweden\(^d\) | 460| 11.5\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, nursing home, chronic lung disease, acute physiology score | 7   |
| Fernandez-Guerrero| 2003 | Spain     | 156| 33.9\%\(^a\)| Multi-locale pneumonia, inappropriate therapy, obtundation, nosocomial infection | 6   |
| Yu               | 2003 | USA       | 844| 16.9\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, critical illness, immunodeficiency, nosocomial infection, underlying chronic disease, organism susceptibility | 8   |
| Maugerstein      | 2003 | France    | 436| 20.6\%\(^a\)| Age > 60 years, immunodeficiency, focus of infection, nosocomial infection | 7   |
| Neuman           | 2007 | USA       | 1574| 13.0\%\(^a\)| Age, male, race, nosocomial infection, immunodeficiency, focus of infection, organism susceptibility, others | 7   |
| Alanee           | 2007 | Georgia\(^e\) | 796| 19.0\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, serotype, focus of infection, immunosuppression, chronic lung disease, suppurative lung complications | 8   |
| Lin              | 2010 | Taiwan    | 302| 19.2\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, nosocomial infection, immunosuppression, solid organ tumor, liver disease, heart disease | 7   |
| Lujan            | 2010 | Spain     | 299| 11.0\%\(^a\)| Age, serotype, CCI, PSI                                       | 7   |
| Moonweer         | 2011 | Netherlands | 204| 16.0\%\(^a\)| Age appropriate treatment, CRP level                        | 7   |
| Song             | 2012 | Korea     | 150| 26.7\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, solid organ tumor, focus of infection, neutropenia, APACHE II score | 7   |
| Kang             | 2013 | Korea     | 136| 26.5\%\(^a\)| Immunosuppression, septic shock, development of ARDS, levofloxacin resistance | 8   |
| Suzuki           | 2013 | Japan     | 135| 25.0\%\(^a\)| Age, sex, CCI, septic shock, antibiotic selection            | 7   |
| Rudnick          | 2013 | Canada    | 6404| 16.4\%\(^a\)| Age, nursing home, immunosuppression, underlying chronic disease, alcohol use, focus of infection, serotype | 7   |
| Regev-Yochay     | 2013 | Israel    | 460| 18.0\%\(^a\)| Age, metastatic malignancy, focus of infection, chronic renal disease | 7   |
| Cohen            | 2015 | South Africa | 3953| 34.0\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, focus of infection, serotype, HIV, province poverty level | 6   |
| Hanada           | 2016 | Japan     | 505| 24.1\%\(^a\)| Age, underlying disease, mechanical ventilation, serotype    | 7   |
| Hughes           | 2016 | UK        | 1316| 15.8\%\(^a\)| Age, sex, focus of infection, underlying disease, serotype    | 7   |
| Wagenvoorst      | 2016 | Netherlands | 960| 7.0\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, immunosuppression, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, chronic cardiovascular disease | 7   |
| Askim            | 2016 | Norwegian | 411| 12.3\%\(^a\)| Age, sex, CCI, comorbidities                                 | 7   |
| Lee              | 2018 | Taiwan    | 134| 16.4\%\(^a\)| Serotype, CCI, Pitt bacteremia score, inappropriate treatment | 7   |
| Kim              | 2018 | Korea     | 319| 34.2\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, focus of infection, Pitt bacteremia score     | 7   |
| Regev-Yochay     | 2018 | Israel    | 2345| 30.2\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, focus of infection, risk group, serotype     | 7   |
| Lernay           | 2019 | Canada    | 1719| 24.9\%\(^a\)| Age, male, homeless, alcohol abuse, immunosuppression, focus of infection, serotype | 7   |
| Houseman         | 2019 | UK        | 2510| 19.0\%\(^a\)| Age, male, focus of infection, risk group, alcohol abuse, serotype | 7   |
| Man              | 2020 | Hong Kong | 792| 11.5\%\(^a\)| Age > 65 years, chronic kidney disease, septic shock, positive urinary antigen test | 7   |

Figure 2. Risk factor of Age > 64 years.
among those factors. Unlike prognostic factors that cannot be changed, such as age, facility, and underlying diseases, outcomes might be improved with medical intervention for septic shock. Alcohol abuse is another preventable risk factor for pneumococcal disease, particularly among young adults. This study also revealed alcohol abuse as a risk factor for mortality. Pneumococcal vaccination with PCV13 or PPV23 in adults is cost-effective and should be considered a priority for decision-makers, and status of vaccination varied widely among studies (0–54.5%). Pneumonia vaccination was another effective means of preventing IPD, but much work remains to be done to increase the acceptance of pneumonia vaccination.

Limitations
Several limitations to this study must be considered when interpreting the results. Given the nature of the disease in question, only a limited number of prospective studies were able to be enrolled. There posed a substantial risk for selection bias, due to the nature of observational study and risk factors analyzed in this manuscript were selected post-hoc. Second, the definition of mortality in articles as in-hospital or 30-day mortality was merged together in some risk factors, due to limited numbers of articles. Third, prognostic factors for mortality differed markedly between articles. Fourth, the forms of vaccine status for studies included in this meta-analysis varied. Fifth, the effects of serotype and antibiotic resistance were not discussed in the present investigation.

Conclusion
IPD still shows high mortality rates and the presence of septic shock represents one of the most important prognostic factors for mortality in IPD. Unlike prognostic factors that cannot be changed, such as age, facility, and underlying diseases, early intervention for septic shock might improve the mortality in IPD.
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**Author contributions**
H.C. conceived of and designed the study; H.C. and H.M. undertook comprehensive research; H.C., H.M., and N.H. analyzed the data; H.C., H.M., Y.H., N.K., and T.K. wrote and revised the paper. Y.H., N.K., and T.K. did critical reviews of the whole manuscript. All authors gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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