


# Hospital Associated and Ventilator Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia in Infants and Children

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 Pediatric Trials Network  
Leading the Way



This work was funded under National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) contract HHSN275201000003I Task Order 42 for the Pediatric Trials Network and with partial funding through FDA grant R18FD005292 – Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative.

Dr. Ericson received support from the National Institute under award number 5KL2TR002015-02.

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**Introduction**

- The incidence of hospital acquired and ventilator associated pneumonias (HABP/VABP) in infants and children is unclear.
- Risk factors predisposing children and infants to HABP/VABP are poorly understood.
- Enrollment in clinical trials of novel antibiotics for HABP/VABP could be improved through a better understanding and identification of infants and children at risk for HABP/VABP.

**Methods**

- We prospectively identified and enrolled children admitted to an intermediate or intensive care unit at 9 children's hospitals in this observational study.
- Inclusion criteria:
  - Hospitalized for ≥48 hours or readmitted <7 days after discharge
  - <120 days old: ≥5 days mechanical ventilation
  - ≥ 120 days to 18 years: >24 hours of: high flow oxygen, BiPAP, CPAP or mechanical ventilation
- We evaluated medical records daily for HABP/VABP until discharge from unit or until meeting HABP/VABP definition.
- FDA-defined HABP/VABP (≥1 of each below):
  - Chest x-ray with a new or progressive infiltrate suggestive of bacterial pneumonia.
  - New or worsening cough, dyspnea, tachypnea or new sputum production, or hypoxemia, or new need for mechanical ventilator, or need for acute changes in ventilator settings or new suctioned respiratory secretions.
  - Systemic inflammation: fever, hypothermia, leukocytosis, leukopenia, >15% immature neutrophils or C-reactive protein >5 mg/dL.
  - Timing: signs/symptoms of pneumonia first developed >48 hours after admission or >48 hours after initiation of mechanical ventilation.
- We defined eligibility for clinical trial enrollment as receiving <48 hours of antibiotics prior to meeting the definition for HABP/VABP.
- Statistics:
  - Overall and for infants <120 and ≥120 days old, we calculated the cumulative incidence of HABP/VABP.
  - We used Fisher's exact and Wilcoxon rank-sum tests to compare risk factor exposures for children with and without HABP/VABP.
  - Using a backwards-selection stepwise regression, we identified risk factors associated with HABP/VABP in the high-risk population overall, for infants <120 days and ≥120 days old.
  - For enrolled patients who were treated with antibiotics, we calculated the proportion that would have been eligible for a clinical trial of an antibiotic for HABP/VABP.

**Results**

- 800 children were enrolled.
- The median age was 1.3 years (interquartile range; 0.3, 7.2).
- HABP/VABP was diagnosed in 10% (82/800) overall, 10% (21/206) of infants <120 days old and 10% (61/594) of infant ≥ 120 days old.
- The duration of mechanical ventilation was longer and the use of inotropes, corticosteroids, and acid suppressing agents were more frequent in children who developed HABP/VABP (Table 1).
- On multivariable analysis, risk factors varied by age (Tables 2-4).
- Overall, 43% (103/238) of children receiving respiratory support who were started on an antibiotic would have met FDA-criteria for inclusion in a clinical trial for HABP/VABP: 35% (34/96) of those <120 days of age and 49% (69/142) of those ≥ 120 days of age.

Table 1. Treatment exposures and medications

	HABP/VABP N=82	No HABP/VABP N=718	P
<b>Ventilation</b>			
Invasive mechanical ventilation	90%	88%	0.59
Noninvasive mechanical ventilation (CPAP or BiPAP)	32%	44%	0.03
<b>Enteral nutrition</b>			
Naso-duodenal-/jejunal tube	20%	24%	0.49
<b>Medications</b>			
Chemotherapy at current hospitalization	2%	3%	>0.99
Biologic agents at hospital admission	2%	2%	>0.99
Corticosteroids at current hospitalization	17%	13%	0.31
Acid suppressing therapy	48%	63%	0.01
Systemic antibacterials within 90 days	83%	85%	0.52
Frequent suctioning	64%	34%	<0.01
Massive volume resuscitation	11%	13%	0.61

Values are median (interquartile range) for continuous variables and % for categorical variables

Table 2. Factors associated with HABP/VABP for patients < 18 years old

	OR (95% confidence interval)
Age (years)	1.31 (1.12, 1.54)
Height (cm)	0.95 (0.93, 0.98)
Aspiration risk	3.69 (1.79, 7.60)
Inotropic therapy	0.59, 0.30, 1.18)
Acid suppressing therapy	0.57 (0.29, 1.14)
Frequent suctioning	4.46 (2.19, 9.09)
Massive volume resuscitation	0.37 (0.10, 1.41)

Table 3. Factors associated with HABP/VABP for patients ≥ 120 days old.

	OR (95% confidence interval)
Age (yr)	1.20 (1.00, 1.44)
Height (cm)	0.97 (0.94, 1.00)
Aspiration risk	4.86 (2.10, 11.24)
Blood transfusion in prior 7 days	3.41 (1.42, 8.23)
Massive volume resuscitation	0.34 (0.07, 1.66)

Table 4. Factors associated with HABP/VABP for patients < 120 days old.

	OR (95% confidence interval)
Weight (kg)	0.33 (0.18, 0.61)
ICU length of stay at enrollment (days)	1.03 (1.00, 1.05)
Acid suppressing therapy	0.31 (0.08, 1.21)
Frequent suctioning	5.25 (1.35, 20.45)

**Conclusions**

- Systematic prospective observation identified HABP/VABP in 10% of infants and children receiving respiratory support.
- Additional risk factors associated with HABP/VABP differed by age.
- 43% of pediatric patients needing antibiotics and receiving respiratory support could be eligible for an antibiotic clinical trial.

