

Pneumococcal disease

DISEASE:¹⁷

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacterium. Infection can result in pneumonia, infection of the blood (bacteraemia/sepsis), middle-ear infection (otitis media) or bacterial meningitis.

TRANSMISSION:¹⁸

Pneumococcal disease spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Some children may not even feel sick but they could have the bacteria in their noses and throats. These children can still spread pneumococcal disease.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:¹⁸

There are different types of pneumococcal disease. Symptoms depend on the part of the body it affects.

Pneumococcal pneumonia causes:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Rapid breathing or difficulty breathing
- Chest pain

Pneumococcal meningitis causes:

- Stiff neck or headache
- High fever
- Increased pain from bright lights
- Confusion

Blood infection causes:

- Fever
- Chills
- Low alertness



POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:¹⁸

- Brain damage
- Disabilities like hearing loss, or loss of arms or legs
- Death



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