

Pneumococcal Disease

August 12, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination



Pneumococcal Disease

Pneumococcal Disease Latest News

Drug firm Pfizer recently introduced its next-generation 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20) for adults in India, offering protection against 20 serotypes responsible for a majority of pneumococcal diseases.

About Pneumococcal Disease

- Pneumococcal disease refers to a **range of illnesses** that **affect various parts of the body** and are **caused by** infection with the **bacterium Streptococcus pneumoniae**, commonly known as **pneumococcus**.
 - Streptococcus pneumoniae is an encapsulated bacteria with a polysaccharide capsule, an essential factor in virulence.
 - About **90 distinct pneumococcal serotypes** have been identified throughout the world, with a **small number of these** serotypes **accounting for most diseases**.
- **Illnesses range from** mild infections, such as **ear infections**, to **pneumonia** and **life-threatening infections of the bloodstream and central nervous system**, such as **meningitis**.

- It is a major public health problem worldwide.
 - In the developing world **young children and the elderly** are **most affected**.
 - It is estimated that **about one million children die of pneumococcal disease every year**.
- Pneumococci are **transmitted by direct contact with respiratory secretions** from patients and healthy carriers.
- **Treatment:**
 - Treatment typically involves **antibiotics**.
 - **Vaccines can reduce the risk of infection**, especially in young children and older adults.
 - **Pneumococcal resistance to antimicrobials** is a serious and **rapidly increasing problem** worldwide.

Source: ET

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/pneumococcal-disease/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.