

- In the US, pneumonia is the most common infectious cause of mortality and was responsible for 1.1 million hospital admissions in 2013.
- The etiology of pneumonia is viral in approximately a third of cases but viral etiologies are often difficult for clinicians to distinguish which can lead to inappropriate treatment with antibiotics.
- Rapid diagnostics, including PCR respiratory panels (RP) and procalcitonin (PCT), may help to determine where antibiotic use may not be warranted due to a pure viral respiratory illness.
- In this single-center retrospective study, the use of RP and PCT was evaluated to determine if clinicians utilized the results to lead to discontinuations of antibiotic therapy in the setting of pure viral respiratory illness.
- Antibiotic discontinuations were 20% or less suggesting that opportunity exists in antimicrobial stewardship involvement with these tests both in education and routine prospective audit and feedback.

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