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## COINFECTION WITH CHLAMYDIA AND MYCOPLASMA. INCIDENCE IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

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### Objectives

To investigate the presence Mycoplasma pneumoniae and Chlamydia pneumoniae and to determine their importance as the cause of community-acquired pneumonia in childhood.

### Material and methods

We performed a retrospective descriptive study of all the patients aged less than 15 years old diagnosed with community-acquired pneumonia due to M. pneumoniae in the pediatric emergency department of our hospital between May 1998 and April 2003. Patients in whom C. pneumoniae was also identified as a cause of pneumonia were investigated.

### Results

Of 403 cases of community-acquired pneumonia, 136 were due to M. pneumoniae (33.9 %) and 58 were due to C. pneumoniae (14.36 %). Of these, nine cases were coinfections with C. pneumoniae and M. pneumoniae. Most infections occurred in boys (5/9). The mean age at diagnosis was 7.7 years. No seasonal predominance was found.

### Conclusions

Both C. pneumoniae and M. pneumoniae play a substantial role in community-acquired pneumonia in children aged more than 5 years old. Although coinfection with both species usually worsens the course of the disease, outcome in all the patients studied was satisfactory.

