A possible outbreak of Streptococcus pneumoniae invasive infection in children in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Summary Streptococcus pneumoniae is an important aetiological agent of infections in children worldwide. The isolation rate of the bacteria has been strikingly low in the recent past in Nigeria. In a study of 1000 blood samples from patients, out of which 642 were from children in Ibadan between May 1999 and December 2000, 14 isolates of Streptococcus pneumoniae were obtained (a prevalence rate of 1.4%). All the isolates were from children and clustered between 1311, September and 22nd October 1999, period of 40 days and thereafter no more organisms were isolated. Antibiotic sensitivity testing of all isolates by disc diffusion method showed resistance to cotrimoxazole, tetracycline and penicillin to be 14%, 21% and 36% respectively. All the isolates were sensitive to chloramphenicol and erythromycin. No fatalities were recorded among the children. This may have indicated an outbreak and underscores the urgency for an epidemiological database in Nigeria to ascertain the exact clinical burden of S. pneumoniae infections so as to determine the appropriate vaccine strategies required for Nigerian children. Keywords: Streptococcus pneumoniae aetiological, infections, worldwide.