# MORBIDITY IN PNEUMOCOCCAL MENINGITES

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The study comprises 53 cases diagnosed as pneumococcal meningitis hospitalized between 1988-1994 (34,6% out of the 153 cases with bacterial

meningitis within adults). Comparatively, the highest rates of sickening occured during 1994 (12 cases), 1991 and 1993 (10 cases in each year). The mainly affected groups of age were those of 16-30 years (24 cases) and those over 60 (9 cases). The confirmation of the pneumococcal etiology was obtained through CSF bacteriological investigation: there were found positive smears in 27 cases, positive cultures in 7 cases, and both smears and cultures in 19 cases. None of the isolated pneumococcal strains were resistent to penicillin G or ampicillin. In most of the cases (45,3%) the pneumococcal meningitis developed under its gravity aspect, towards severs forms, and 7 patients deceased (35% out of 20 deceases in bacterial meningitis within adults). The occurence, in the personal case history of the patients, of head trauma (19 cases), of irradiative pituitary adenomas (one case), of oto-mastoiditis suffering (9 cases) might explain, through their pathogenetic mechanism, the increased frequency of pneumococcal meningitis, and, respectively, the possibility of recurrence. In all the cases, the antimicrobial therapy consisted in the association of penicillin G and ampicillin, for variable intervals of time according to the specific clinic form and evolution (the cultivation of the bacterial agent and the determination of the antimicrobical susceptibility could not be always achieved). It also became obvious the difficulty of establishing the etiology of a bacterial meningitis then antibiotics had been administrated to the pacient before his hospitalization, and, the necessity to detect the bacterial antigens in CSF through.