

# Multicentre randomised clinical study to compare the efficacy of chloramphenicol with that of ampicillin plus gentamicin in children aged 2 to 59 months with very severe pneumonia: multicentre study conducted in Bangladesh, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Yemen, Vietnam, and Zambia

<b>Submission date</b> 27/07/2004	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 28/07/2004	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 25/08/2011	<b>Condition category</b> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

**Plain English summary of protocol**  
Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

**EudraCT/CTIS number**

**IRAS number**

**ClinicalTrials.gov number**

**Secondary identifying numbers**

WHO/CAH ID 98022

## **Study information**

**Scientific Title**

### **Study objectives**

Primary objective:

To evaluate whether injectable ampicillin plus gentamicin reduces treatment failure in children, aged 2 - 59 months, with very severe pneumonia by 30% or more compared to chloramphenicol after completing 5 days of therapy. The specific null hypothesis to be tested is that treatment failure will be equal in children aged 2 - 59 months with very severe pneumonia whether treated with injectable chloramphenicol or injectable ampicillin plus gentamicin.

Secondary objectives:

1. To determine the proportion of treatment failures by 48 hours after randomisation
2. To determine the proportion of children with treatment failure at 11 days after randomisation
3. To determine the proportion of children with treatment failure at 21 - 30 days after randomisation
4. To report the proportion of children who died up to Day 30 after randomisation
5. To determine bacterial pathogens in the etiology of very severe pneumonia
6. To determine the antimicrobial susceptibility of bacterial pathogens causing very severe pneumonia
7. To determine predictors of treatment failure in children with very severe pneumonia

Please note that the following changes have been made to this record: the site at Zambia only enrolled patients from April 2001 to November 2001 and then the enrolment was stopped there. The DSMB ended accrual at the Zambia site after 23 enrolments (2.4% of total) in November 2001 because of a high mortality rate - likely due to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). A new site at in Ecuador was added in March 2003 that started enrolling patients in April 2003.

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Ethics approval was received from the following Institutional Review Boards (IRBs):

1. Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Institute of Child Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. Dr. Francisco de Icaza Bustamente Children's Hospital, Guayaquil, Ecuador
3. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research and Education, Chandigarh, India
4. National Institute of Pediatrics, Mexico City, Mexico
5. Rawalpindi General Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
6. Nishter Medical College Hospital, Multan, Pakistan
7. Al-Sabeen Hospital, Sana'a University, Sana'a, Yemen
8. Children Hospital No 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- 9. University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia
- 10. Boston University
- 11. World Health Organization (WHO) Ethical Review Committee

**Study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Secondary study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Study setting(s)**

Not specified

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Participant information sheet****Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Severe pneumonia

**Interventions**

For the primary end-point, a total of two looks at the data would require 1,182 patients (591 in each group) to be studied. This sample size assumes a study power of 80% to look for differences between the groups, and maintains an overall two-sided alpha level of 0.05 and includes adjustment for 2% loss to follow-up.

Patients will be randomised to:

Group 1: 5 days of injectable chloramphenicol in hospital followed by 5 days of oral chloramphenicol at home

Group 2: 5 days of injectable ampicillin and gentamicin in hospital followed by 5 days of oral ampicillin and gentamicin at home

**Intervention Type**

Drug

**Phase**

Not Specified

**Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)**

Chloramphenicol, ampicillin, gentamicin

**Primary outcome measure**

The primary outcome variable is "treatment failure at day 6" defined as follows:

1. If at any time after randomisation the following occur:

1.1. Death

1.2. Development of bacterial meningitis, empyema, septic shock or renal failure

1.3. Serious adverse events leading to change of therapy or any modification of antibiotic

therapy before day 6 (modification of the dosage of the antibiotic will not be considered as a "treatment failure")

1.4. Left Against Medical Advice (LAMA), or withdrawal of consent (reason of including this in treatment failure is because parents may LAMA or withdraw the consent thinking their child is not improving on the study treatment), or loss to follow-up

OR

2. Development of any of the two signs at 48 hours after randomisation:

2.1. Worsening of tachypnoea (defined as 20 breaths above baseline), or

2.2. Development/persistence of abnormal sleepiness or difficulty in awakening, or

2.3. Development/persistence of inability to drink

OR

3. Development of two or more of the following at Day 6 after randomisation:

3.1. Worsening of tachypnoea (defined as 20 breaths above baseline, or

3.2. Development/persistence of abnormal sleepiness or difficulty in awakening, or

3.3. Development/persistence of inability to drink

### **Secondary outcome measures**

1. Treatment failures, as defined above, 48 hours after randomisation

2. Treatment failures, as defined above, 11 days after randomisation

3. Treatment failures, as defined above, 21 - 30 days after randomisation (if a patient develops signs given for treatment failure within two weeks after stopping treatment it will be considered a relapse)

4. Deaths by 21 - 30 days after randomisation

5. Bacterial pathogens isolated in blood cultures from children with very severe pneumonia

6. Antimicrobial susceptibility in blood culture isolates from children with very severe pneumonia

### **Overall study start date**

01/10/2000

### **Completion date**

01/06/2002

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Age 5 - 59 months

2. History of cough or difficult breathing

3. Central cyanosis or inability to drink

4. Caretaker is willing to sign informed consent form

### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

### **Age group**

Child

### **Lower age limit**

5 Months

**Upper age limit**

59 Months

**Sex**

Both

**Target number of participants**

1,182 patients (591 in each group)

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Current illness greater than 10 days old
2. Past history of more than two wheezing episodes or diagnosed asthma
3. Known cardiac patient
4. Known Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infected
5. Known family member to be HIV infected
6. More than 24 hours hospitalisation within the last 7 days
7. History of severe adverse reaction to study drugs
8. Prior enrolment in the study
9. Injection of antibiotic more than 24 hours prior to enrolment
10. Stridor
11. Known renal failure or not passed urine in last 24 hours
12. Cerebral malaria
13. Bacterial meningitis
14. Clinical jaundice
15. Oral thrush
16. Hepatosplenomegaly
17. Follow-up to home not possible

**Date of first enrolment**

01/10/2000

**Date of final enrolment**

01/06/2002

**Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

Bangladesh

Ecuador

India

Mexico

Pakistan

Switzerland

Viet Nam

Yemen

Zambia

**Study participating centre**

**20, Avenue Appia**

Geneva -27

Switzerland

CH 1211

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

The Department of Child and Adolescent Health (CAH)/World Health Organization (WHO)  
(Switzerland)

**Sponsor details**

20, Avenue Appia

Geneva -27

Switzerland

CH 1211

**Sponsor type**

Research organisation

**Website**

<http://www.who.int>

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/01f80g185>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Research organisation

**Funder Name**

The Department of Child and Adolescent Health (CAH)/World Health Organization (WHO)  
(Switzerland)

# Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan  
Not provided at time of registration

Intention to publish date

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary  
Not provided at time of registration

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	12/01/2008		Yes	No