

***Study: Pneumococcal vaccine doesn't prevent repeat infections***

A Canadian study suggests that, for elderly people who have been hospitalized for community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) is ineffective in preventing repeat bouts of pneumonia. Canadian national guidelines recommend the vaccine for all elderly people and others at increased risk for CAP. The study, published in the Jul 1 issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, focused on 2,950 patients, most of them elderly, who were hospitalized in Edmonton for CAP. A third of the patients had received PPV previously or were vaccinated before they were discharged. The patients were followed for 3.8 years, during which 1,626 (55%) died or were hospitalized again for potentially vaccine-preventable infections. After adjusting for confounding variables, the researchers found that the risk of death or reinfection was not significantly lower for the vaccinated patients than for those who were not vaccinated (hazard ratio, 0.91; 95% confidence interval, 0.79 to 1.04;  $P=.17$ ). "Better pneumococcal vaccination strategies are urgently needed," the authors conclude. *Clinical Infectious Diseases abstract*