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The burden of pneumococcal disease in Cuban

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Background & Aim: Cuba has a new heptavalent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine under advanced clinical development. The introduction in children of 1-5 years old is scheduled in 2018. Estimates of disease burden are needed to inform about their use and impact. We reported the burden of pneumococcal cases and deaths in children younger than five years for 2015.

Methods: Mortality and morbidity attributable to pneumococcus were estimated for each of the three primary syndromes: pneumonia, meningitis and invasive non-pneumonia, non-meningitis (NPNM). Disease incidence and case-fatality were calculated following the instructions of WHO estimation procedures for global burden of diseases studies. The data was obtained from two domestic sources: National Bacterial Meningitis Surveillance System and the laboratory register from the National Reference Laboratory. Estimates were adjusted for HIV prevalence and access to health care. All analyses were conducted using Stata 14 (College Station, TX).

Results: In 2015, about 970 severe cases (UR: 692-1209) were attended in Cuba due to Streptococcus pneumoniae infection and 39 deaths (UR: 23-59) were reported among children 1-59 months. Incidence rate of pneumonia severe cases was 149.16 (UR: 111.75-170.13) and CFR was 2% (UR: 1-2%). Over a period of one year, a total of 22 deaths were attributed to pneumococcal pneumonia (UR: 16-23), 9 to meningitis (UR: 14-19) and 8 to bacteremia (UR: 3-17). The case fatality rate (CFR) due pneumococcal meningitis achieved 18% (UR 8-37%).

Conclusion: Mobility and mortality reduction in children less than 5 could be achieved in Cuba with the accelerated pneumococcal vaccine introduction in pre-school children.

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