

Childhood Pneumonia

Clinical presentation and Early Detection & Referral

16.01.2025

Dr Kamal Kumar Singhal

DCH, MD, DM (Pediatric Pulmonology)

Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Lady Hardinge Medical College and Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital,

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, New Delhi

BURDEN

- **Globally**

- Under 5 mortality: Major culprit
 - 14% deaths (WHO, 2019)
 - 2400 lives per day
 - 7.4 lakh per year
 - Pneumonia is a disease of poverty, a sign of inequality
 - 84% of child deaths from pneumonia in 30 countries mostly sub-Saharan Africa & Asia.

- **India**

- **11 % of Global pneumonia deaths (UNICEF 2019)**
 - **Contributing factors:** malnutrition, low birth weight, non exclusive breast feeding, lack of immunisation, indoor pollution and overcrowding.
- **Regional Disparity:** Kerala & Tamil Nadu reporting lower incidence rates

What is Pneumonia?

Pneumonia in Children: Definitions

- **Pathologist's Definition:**
 - Inflammation of the lung parenchyma, often caused by infection.
 - Histologically, it may show neutrophilic infiltration, edema, and alveolar hemorrhage depending on the causative organism.
- **Radiologist's Definition:**
 - Chest X-ray: New infiltrates, consolidation, or opacities in the lung fields.
 - The presence of air bronchograms or pleural effusion may suggest bacterial pneumonia, while lobar consolidation is indicative of more severe disease.

We need a clinician's definition of Pneumonia !

What symptoms or complaints would prompt a parent to bring a child to a healthcare facility?

**TACHYPNEA
BREATHLESSNESS**

HEADACHE

WHEEZE

**ABDOMINAL
PAIN**

**DIFFICULTY IN
BREATHING**

COUGH

FEVER

**CHEST
PAIN**



Which equipment is most useful for diagnosing pneumonia in children?

- A) Pulse Oximeter and Thermometer



- B) Stethoscope



- C) Chest X-ray

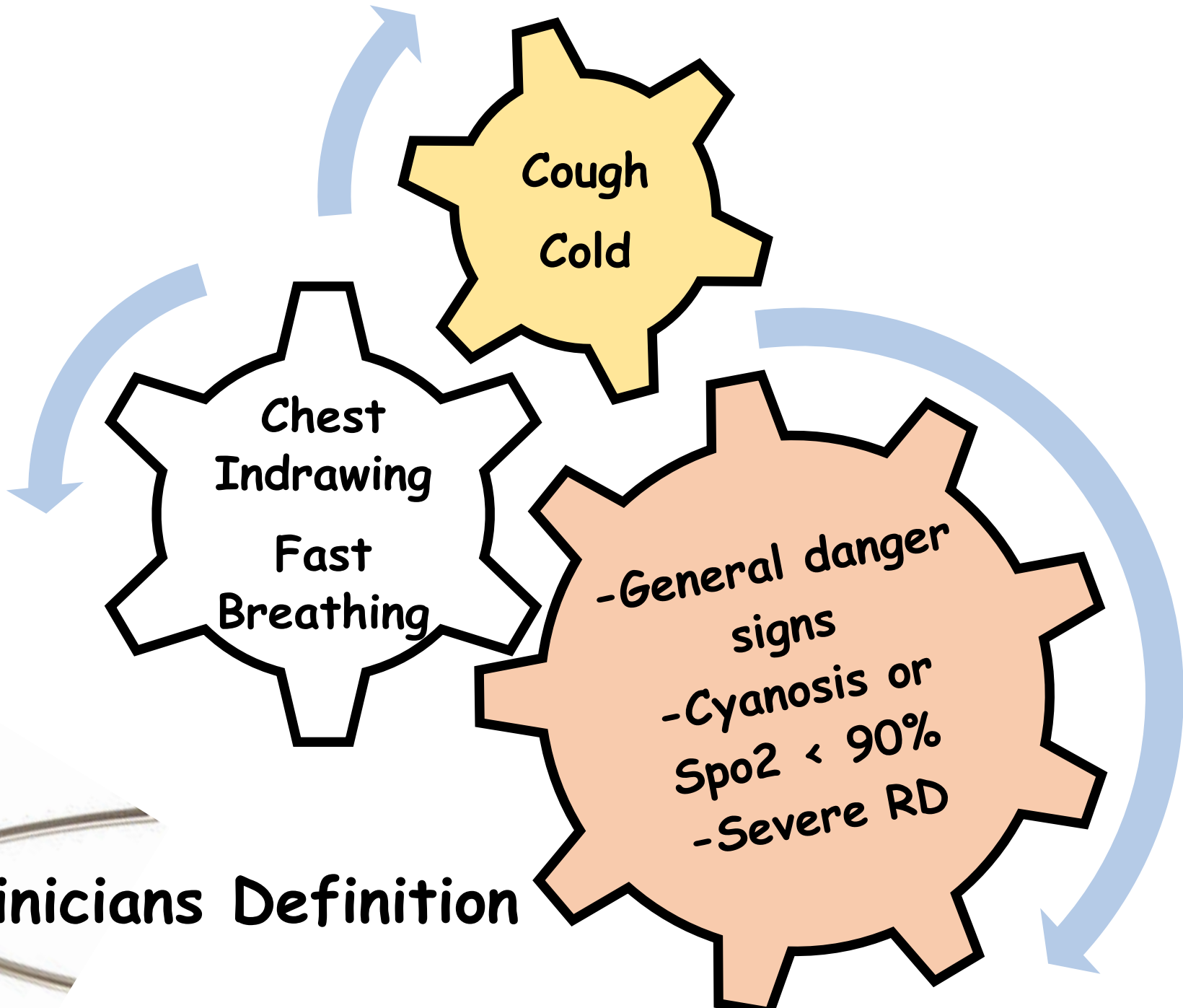


- D) Watch





WHO

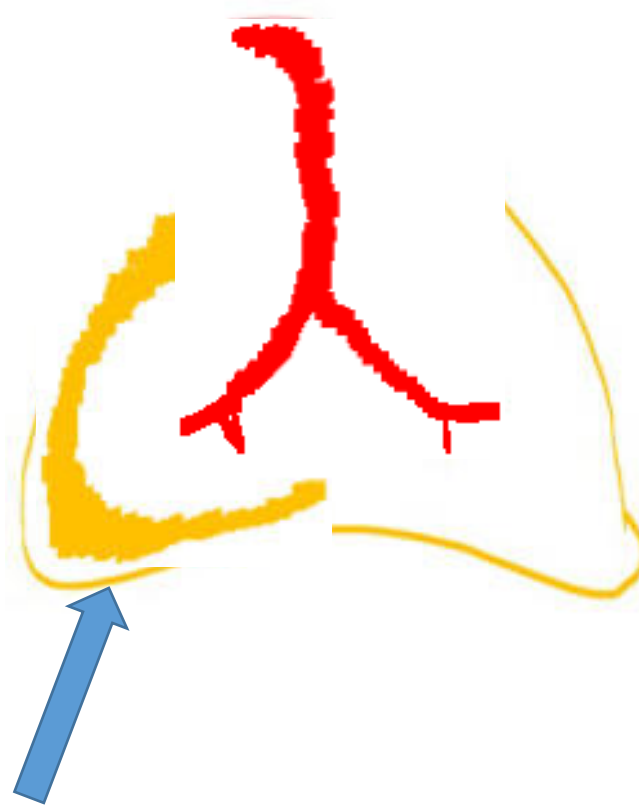


Clinicians Definition

Acute onset difficult breathing

Respiratory

- Asthma
- Bronchiolitis
- Viral croup
- Foreign body in the airways
- Pneumonia
- Effusion and Empyema
- Pneumothorax



Non-Respiratory

- Congestive heart failure
- Raised intra-cranial tension e.g. Meningitis
- Metabolic acidosis e.g. Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Renal Failure

What is fast breathing?

Fast breathing

| Age | Respiratory rate (breath per minute) |
|----------------|--|
| < 2 months | > 60/min |
| 2 to 12 months | > 50/min |
| > 12 months | > 40/min |

To be counted for complete 60 seconds

Respiratory rate

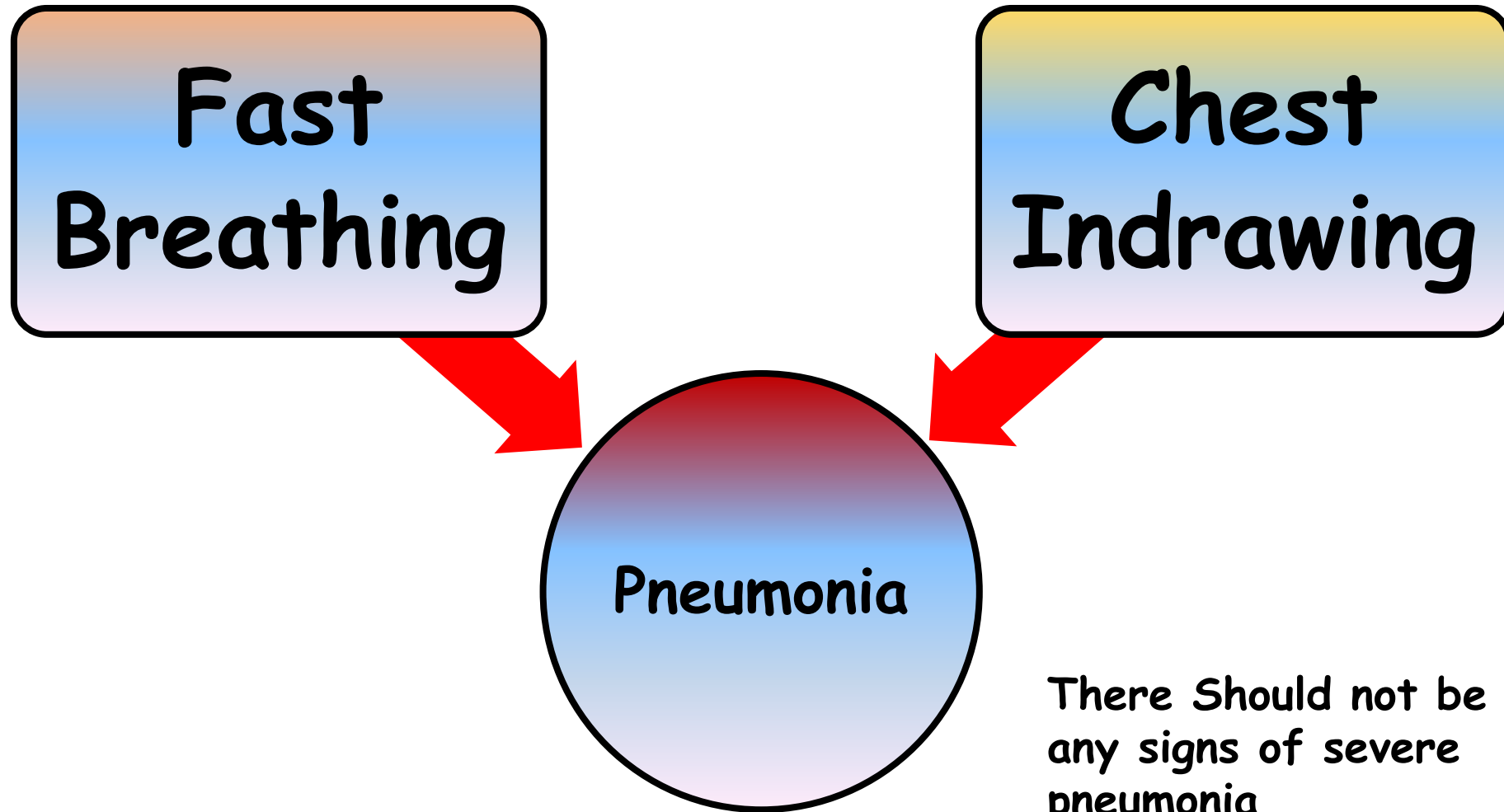
- <1 year age, RR of 70 breaths/min
Sensitivity 63% and Specificity 89% for Hypoxaemia
- <5 years age, the WHO definitions for tachypnea
Sensitivity 74% and specificity 67% for Radiographically-defined Pneumonia

Only fast breathing, No danger signs

Radiological pneumonia 14%, lobar pneumonia 1%

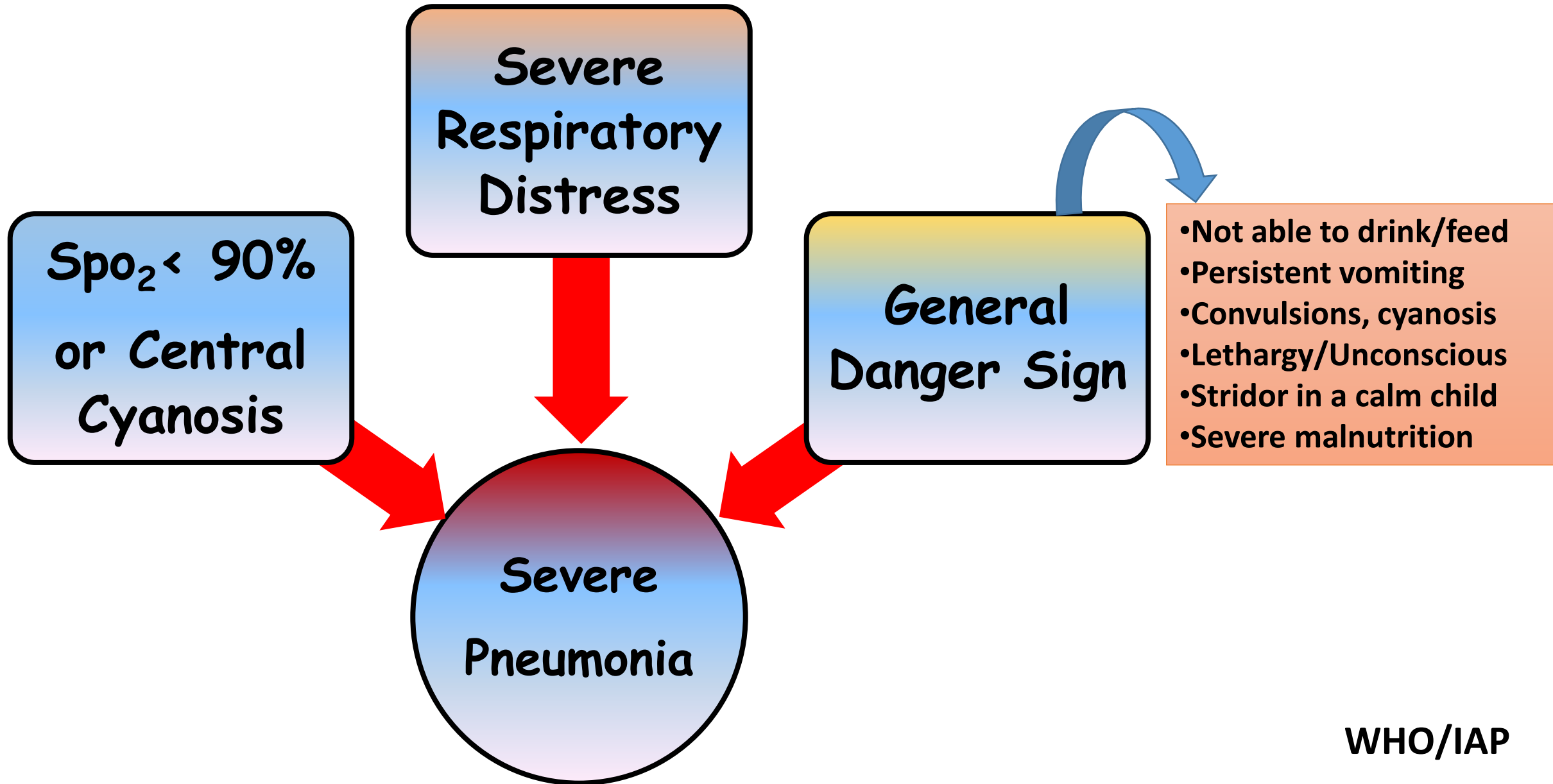
Work of breathing, compared to fast breathing, is more indicative of the likelihood of pneumonia

Cough or Difficulty in breathing with



There Should not be any signs of severe pneumonia

Cough or Difficulty in breathing with



Change in WHO classification

Clinical features

OLD

NEW

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cough/cold | NO PNEUMONIA: COUGH COLD | NO PNEUMONIA: COUGH COLD |
| Fast Breathing | PNEUMONIA | PNEUMONIA |
| Chest indrawing | SEVERE PNEUMONIA | |
| General danger signs | VERY SEVERE PNEUMONIA | SEVERE PNEUMONIA |
| Severe respiratory distress | | |
| Central cyanosis | | |

Change in treatment approach

| Clinical features | OLD | | NEW | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Cough/cold | Admission | X | Admission | X |
| | Antibiotics | X | Antibiotics | X |
| Fast Breathing | Admission | X | Admission | X |
| | Antibiotics | √ | | |
| Chest indrawing | Admit | √ | Admit | √ |
| | Antibiotics | √ | | |
| General danger signs | | | | |
| Severe respiratory distress | | | Admit | √ |
| | | | Antibiotics | √ |
| Central cyanosis | | | | |



TREATMENT

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| NO PNEUMONIA: COUGH COLD | <u>No admission, No antibiotics</u> Soothe the throat and relieve cough with safe remedy Advise when to return |
| PNEUMONIA | <u>No admission</u> <u>Oral</u> Antibiotics Advise when to return |
| SEVERE PNEUMONIA | <u>Admit</u> <u>Injectable</u> Antibiotics Oxygen if saturation < 90%. Manage airway Treat high fever |

What is the most prevalent cause of pneumonia throughout childhood?

- A) *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- B) *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
- C) Viral infections
- D) *Haemophilus influenzae* type b

What is the most prevalent cause of pneumonia throughout childhood?

- A) *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- B) *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
- C) Viral infections
- D) *Haemophilus influenzae* type b

Correct Answer: C) Viral infections, such as *Respiratory Syncytial Virus* (RSV), Influenza, and Parainfluenza

Most common agents causing CAP according to age

| Newborn -3 months | 1-6 months | 6-12 months | 1-5 yrs | > 5 yrs |
|---|--|--|--|---------|
| Group B Streptococcus Enteric Gram-negative RSV | Viruses S pneumoniae H influenzae S aureus M catarrhalis Chlamydia trachomatis Ureaplasma urealyticum B pertussis | Viruses S pneumoniae H influenza S. aureus Moraxella catarrhalis | Viruses M. Pneumoniae C. pneumoniae S. pneumoniae | |

Viruses most prevalent cause of pneumonia throughout Childhood

Streptococcus pneumoniae is the leading bacterial cause of CAP across all age groups

Coinfections, both with two or more viruses, or with viruses and bacteria, are very common. Coinfection rates up to 75% are commonly reported in infants

If there is additional wheeze!

Preschool Wheezer

- **1/4** infants- 1 episode by 9 months
- **1/2** children- 1 episode by 6yrs
- **Tendency to reoccur.**
- Onset is earlier in **males**

Is there a role of Bronchodilator ?

Wheezing on auscultation - present in 60-80% of lower chest indrawing despite excluding asthma

Hazir T et al. New Outpatient Short-Course Home Oral Therapy for Severe Pneumonia Study Group. Ambulatory short-course high-dose oral amoxicillin for treatment of severe pneumonia in children: a randomised equivalency trial. Lancet 2008; 371: 49-56.

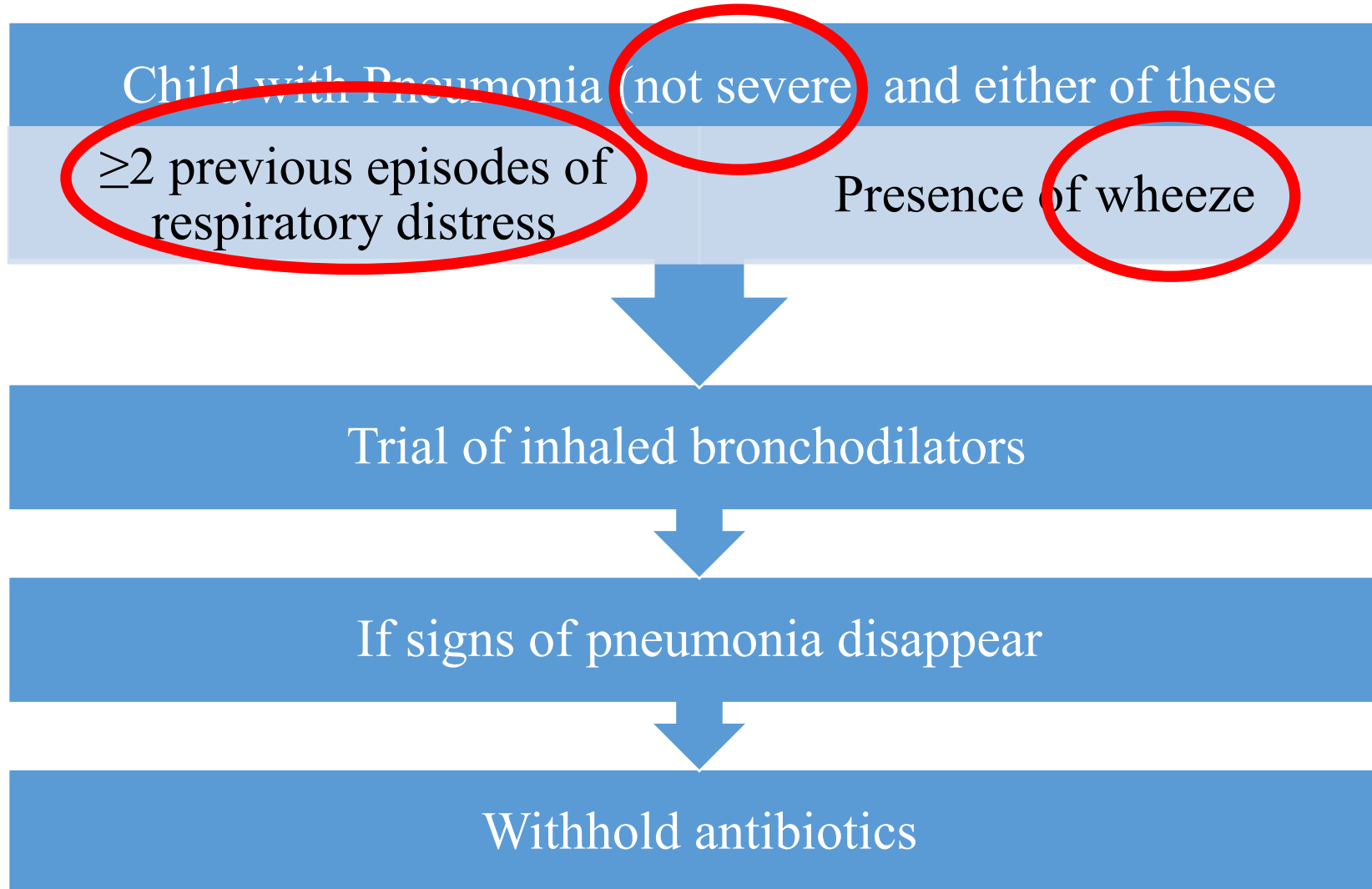
Signs of pneumonia disappear in almost half of the cases with nebulization

Awasthi S, Agarwal G, Kabra SK, Singhi S, Kulkarni M, et al. (2008) Does 3-Day Course of Oral Amoxicillin Benefit Children of Non-Severe Pneumonia with Wheeze: A Multicentric Randomised Controlled Trial. PLoS ONE 3(4): e1991. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0001991

Thus there should be a role !

| Table 8. Differ | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Diagnosis | |
| Asthma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – History of recurrent wheeze, chest tightness, some |
| Bronchiolitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First episode of wheeze in a child aged < 2 years – Wheeze episodes at time of seasonal bronchiolitis |
| Wheeze associated with cough or cold | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wheeze always related to coughs and colds – No family or personal history of asthma, eczema, hay-fever – Prolonged expiration |
| Foreign body | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – History of sudden onset of choking or wheezing – Wheeze may be unilateral – Air trapping with hyper-resonance and mediastinal shift – Signs of lung collapse: reduced air entry and impaired |
| Wheeze associated with cough or cold | |
| Pneumonia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fever – Coarse crackles – Grunting |
| Foreign body | |

When can we avoid antibiotics ?



Investigations

Which of the following investigations are routinely indicated in children with **non-severe community-acquired pneumonia**?

- A) Chest X-ray
- B) Microbiological investigations
- D) Acute phase reactants
- E) None of the above

Which of the following investigations are routinely indicated in children with **non-severe community-acquired pneumonia**?

- A) Chest X-ray
- B) Microbiological investigations
- D) Acute phase reactants
- E) None of the above

Answer: E) None of the above

Should I get a chest X ray in all ?

Should not be a routine investigation in community acquired pneumonia
Signs and symptoms of pneumonia who are **not admitted** should **not have CXR**

BTS. Thorax 2011;66:ii1eii23. doi:10.1136/thoraxjnl-2011-200598

Severe pneumonia: Chest X-ray to identify pleural effusion, empyema, pneumothorax, pneumatocele, interstitial pneumonia or pericardial effusion

WHO

- Seriously ill/Severe pneumonia
- Complications suspected
- Alternative diagnosis
- Severe Acute Malnutrition
- Post measles infections

Should I do Microbiological investigations in all ?

Not Routinely in mild disease or those being treated in community
Needed in: Who fail to improve and in those who have progressive deterioration

Available investigations

Blood culture: Positivity is uncommon

Nasopharyngeal secretions and nasal swabs: viral detection (PCR and/or immunofluorescence)

Serology: Acute and convalescent for respiratory viruses, Mycoplasma and Chlamydia

Pleural fluid for microscopy, culture, pneumococcal antigen detection and/or PCR

Can Acute phase reactants differentiate b/w Virus/ Bacterial/ atypical organism ?

Acute phase reactants

Procalcitonin

Cytokines

C reactive protein (CRP)

ESR and

White blood cell count

These reactants Individually and in combination

No clinical utility in distinguishing viral from bacterial infections

Should not be tested routinely

- **Acute phase reactants:**
 - No clinical utility in distinguishing viral from bacterial
 - Should not be tested routinely [A]
- **C reactive protein:**
 - Not useful in uncomplicated pneumonia
 - Should not be measured routinely. [A+]

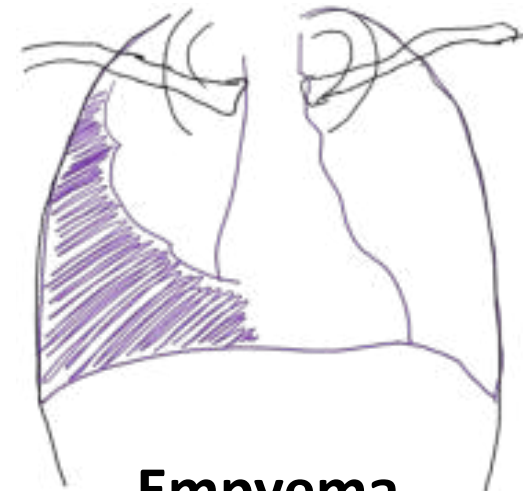
Complications

Lung abscess



Pneumothorax

Bronchiectasis



Empyema

When to refer to Intensive care units in acute pneumonia?

Cyanosis: $SpO_2 < 92\%$ on Fio_2 of ≥ 0.50

Shock

Sustained tachycardia or Inadequate blood pressure or
Need for pharmacologic support of blood pressure or perfusion

Need for ventilatory support

Requires invasive ventilation

Requires use of noninvasive positive pressure ventilation

Has impending respiratory failure

Altered mental status

Due to hypercarbia or hypoxemia as a result of pneumonia

When to refer for opinion?

- **Slowly resolving pneumonia:**
 - Persistence of CXR abnormalities for >1 month in a clinically improved host
- **Non-Resolving/ Persistent pneumonia:**
 - Persistence of symptoms and CXR abnormalities for >1 month in a child with LRTI
- **Recurrent pneumonia:**
 - Multiple episodes with evidence of complete resolution in between.
 - \geq 2 episodes within 1yr or
 - \geq 3 such episodes over any time period

When to discharge ?

- Respiratory distress has resolved
- No hypoxemia (oxygen saturation, > 90%)
- Feeding well
- Able to take oral medication or have completed a course of parenteral antibiotics
- Parents understand the signs of pneumonia, risk factors and when to return

Thank You

Which equipment is most useful for diagnosing pneumonia in children?

- A) Pulse Oximeter and Thermometer



- B) Stethoscope



- C) Chest X-ray



- D) Watch



What is the most prevalent cause of pneumonia throughout childhood?

- A) *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- B) *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
- C) Viral infections
- D) *Haemophilus influenzae* type b

Which of the following investigations are routinely indicated in children with **non-severe community-acquired pneumonia**?

- A) Chest X-ray
- B) Microbiological investigations
- D) Acute phase reactants
- E) None of the above

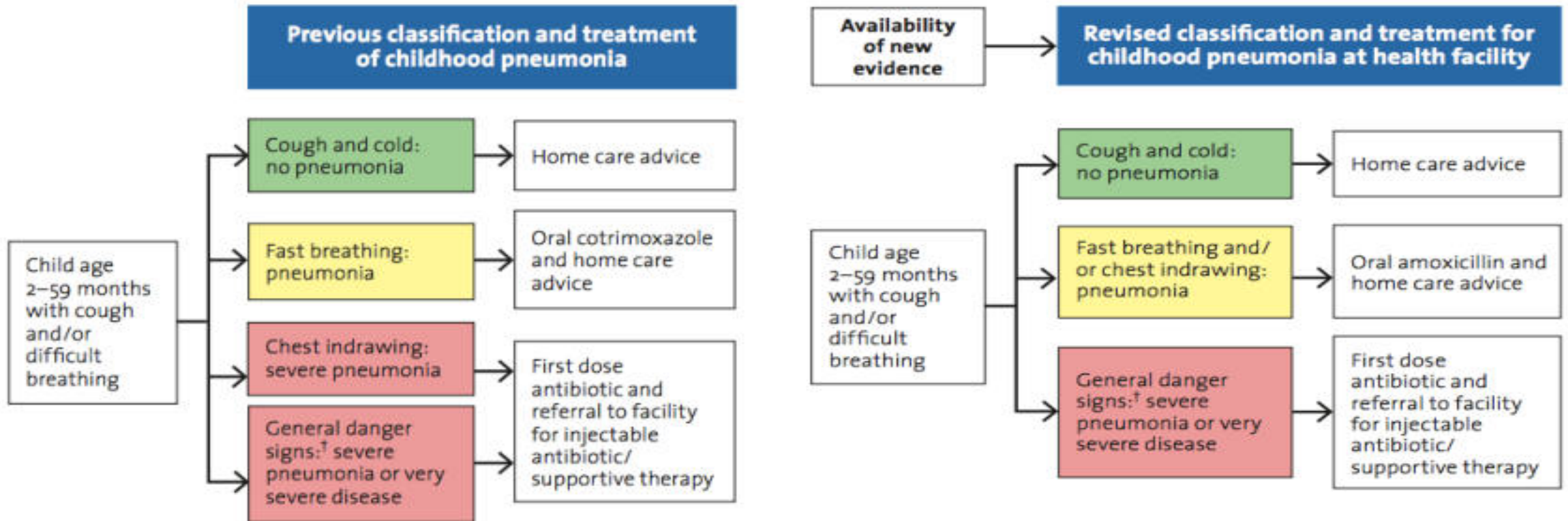
Clinical Management of Severe Childhood Pneumonia



Dr Hema Gupta Mittal

Professor and In-charge Division of Pediatric Pulmonology, ABVIMS & RMLH Delhi

Definition: Severe Pneumonia : WHO definition



Danger signs: Grunt, Not able to drink, persistent vomiting, convulsions, lethargic or unconscious, stridor in a calm child or severe malnutrition

PRINCIPLES in Management of Severe Pneumonia

Assessment and
management of
respiratory distress

Antibiotics
Which, why, when, how
, where.....

Other medications:
Antivirals, nebulization,
cough syrups etc

Respiratory and cough
hygiene

Monitoring ,
Investigations and
Complications

Prevention strategies

Case

- Laxmi , 7 days old baby with
- refusal of feeds , breathing difficulty * 3 days
- O/E –baby is dull .RR :74/ min . Spo2 : 85%
- Multiple Pustules present over the trunk

Diagnosis ? Treatment ?

Antibiotics: Which ?When ??Why??

Etiology of Pneumonia

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Bacteria | Streptococcus pneumoniae, Hemophilus influenzae, Staphylococcus aureus, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Bordetella pertussis, Klebsiella pneumoniae |
| Viruses (Most common) | Respiratory Syncytial Viruses, Rhinovirus, Influenza Virus, Human Metapneumovirus, Adeno virus, Measles, CMV, EBV |
| Fungi | Aspergillus, Candida, Pneumocystis Jirovecii (immunocompromised) |
| Noninfectious | Aspiration of food /gastric acid, foreign bodies, hydrocarbons, lipid substances, hypersensitivity reactions, drug or radiation |

Organism & Clues

Staphylococcus: Pyoderma, Measles

Pneumocystis: HIV

Pseudomonas, Staphylococcus: CF

Gram negative, Staph aureus: PEM

Gram negative, Aspergillus: Neutropenia

Anaerobes: Aspiration

Common Etiology of Pneumonia in children in LMICs

Viruses are most common pathogens..

In 2015, RSV & Influenza accounted for 20% & 10% cases, respectively.

The increased use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib) vaccine has **changed pneumonia etiology**, with *Staphylococcus aureus* and *H. influenzae* non-type b now the commonest bacterial pathogens

Differentiating etiologies

| Bacterial | Viral | Atypical |
|--|---|---|
| <p>More toxic, Rapid progression</p> <p>Lobar pneumonia</p> <p>Complications: Empyema, Abscess</p> | <p>Less toxic ,Follows URTI,</p> <p>Gradual ;Wheeze+/-,</p> <p>bronchiolitis ,Usually b/l</p> | <p>Less toxic, “walking pneumonia”</p> <p>Wheezing,diffuse</p> <p>Extra pulmonary manifestations++</p> <p>-</p> |



Lobar consolidation+ air bronchogram;Patchy/Cavitatory/Round pneumonia/Pneumatoceles/ empyema



Diffuse GGO/Interstitial infiltrates/Multifocal patchy consolidation OR Lobar / segmental atelectasis, ARDS



Diffuse interstitial/ reticular pattern /Hilar lymphadenopathy/ Normal chest X-ray

Antibiotics recommendations: IPD

: ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY FOR PNEUMONIA/SEPSIS IN INFANTS <2 MONTHS

| Antibiotic | Each Dose (mg/kg/dose) | Frequency | | Route | Duration (Days) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|
| | | < 7days age | > 7days age | | |
| Inj. Ampicillin* | 50 | 12 hourly | 8 hourly | IV, IM | 7-10 |
| And Inj. Gentamicin | 5 | 24 hourly | 24 hourly | IV, IM | 7-10 |
| Inj. Amikacin | 15 | 24 hourly | 24 hourly | IV, IM | 7-10 |

*If concomitant meningitis is suspected, the drugs should be given IV and Inj. Cefotaxime 50 mg/kg IV 8 hourly is used instead of Ampicillin. The total duration of therapy in meningitis is 2-3 weeks.

In case of suspected staphylococcal infection, Injection Cloxacillin 50mg/kg 8 hourly is to be added to the regime.

R 3: Severe pneumonia WHO

1 st line: parenteral ampicillin (or penicillin) and gentamicin*5d

2nd line :Ceftriaxone: if failed on 1st line

Antibiotics recommendations: IPD

| | Age <2m | >2m-5y | >5y |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 st line | Cefotaxime/Ceftriaxone ± gentamicin/amikacin | Ampicillin | Ampicillin |
| 2 nd line | Cefotaxime/Ceftriaxone ± gentamicin/amikacin Piperacillin tazobactam/ Cefoperazone sulbactam | Co -amoxyclav OR Cefotaxime OR ceftriaxone | Co -amoxyclav OR Cefotaxime OR ceftriaxone or Azithromycin |

Stap aureus

Ceftriaxone+cloxacillin OR
cefuroxime or Coamoxyclav
+gentamicin or amikacin
2nd line ceftriaxone
+vancomycin/clindamycin

Ceftriaxone+cloxacillin OR
cefuroxime or Coamoxyclav
or cefazolin
2nd line ceftriaxone
+vancomycin/clindamycin

Ceftriaxone+cloxacillin OR
cefuroxime or Coamoxyclav or
cefazolin
2nd line ceftriaxone
+vancomycin or clindamycin



Characteristics and Management: Staph Pneumonia

| | MSSA | MRSA |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Clinical setting | Community | Healthcare/community |
| Age group | Higher | Younger |
| Course & outcome complications | Less severe Lesser | More severe, ICU admissions Higher:pneumatocoles, Pleural effusion |
| Treatment | Cefazolin (50 mg/kg/d, BD or TID) /Clox (100mg/Kg TID) +/- Aminoglycoside (gentamicin (5–7 mg/kg/d, OD) Or Amikacin (15 mg/kg/d, OD) | Vancomycin (40 mg/Kg/d in QID) /Clindamycin(20 mg/kg/d, TID or QID) Linezolid (10 mg/kg/d), TID |
| Duration | 7 to 10 days | 14 d if no complications 4-6 weeks if complications |

Viral Pneumonias and Antivirals

- No effective antivirals available for most viral pneumonias (few exceptions)
- Anti-virals used to treat sporadic or epidemic or pandemic viral pneumonia
include: Oseltamivir, Zanamivir, Peramivir, Ribavirin, Remdesivir (off label), Ganciclovir
- Empirical antibiotics **should be** used in severe viral pneumonias in hospitals/ICU

- Influenza/CMV/Adenovirys/ RSV/ rhino...
- SARS CoV 2 and Covid 19 : lessons learnt !!!!

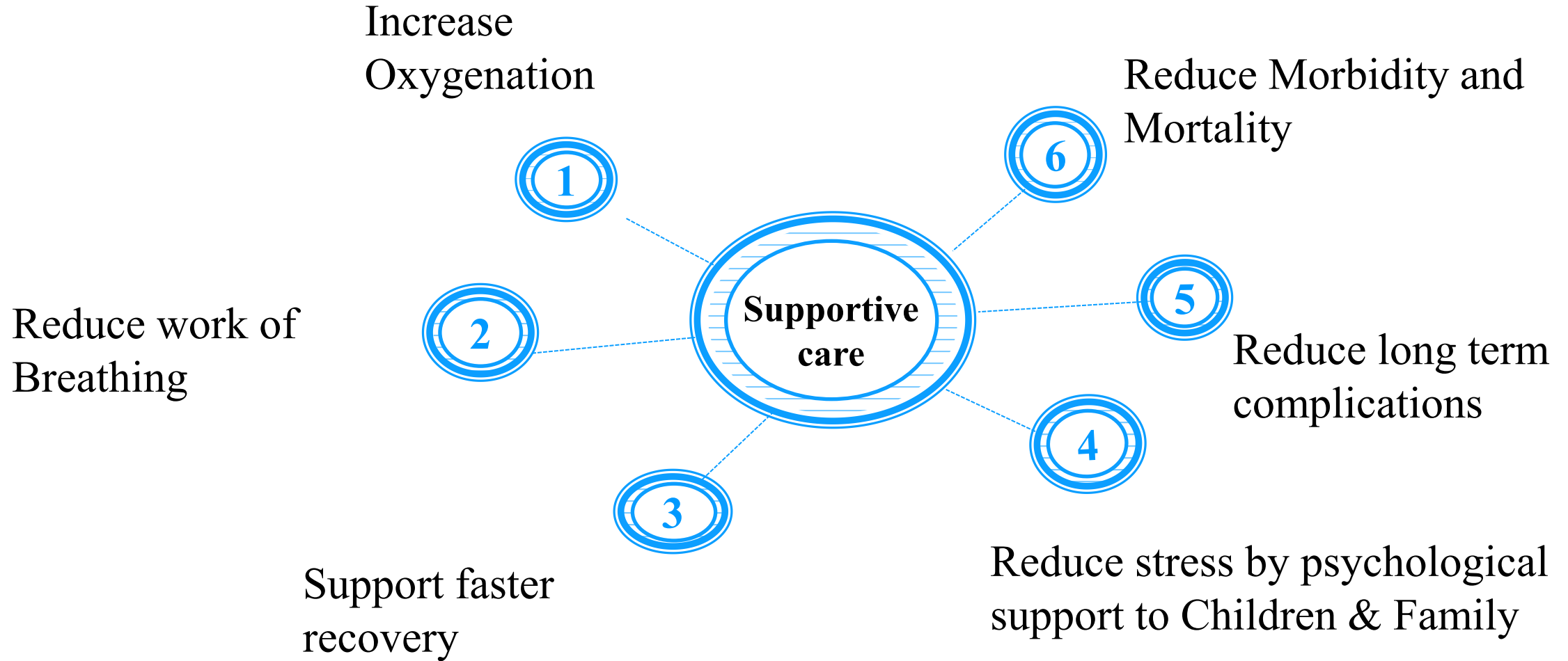
Case 1

- Laxmi , 7 days old baby with
- refusal of feeds , breathing difficulty * 3 days
- O/E –baby is dull .RR :74/ min . Spo2 : 85%
- Multiple Pustules present over the trunk

Diagnosis ? Treatment ?

- Admit
- Severe Pneumonia with Sepsis
- Probably Staphylococcal
- Vancomycin plus an aminoglycoside

SUPPORTIVE CARE (ADDITIONAL CARE)





Oxygen therapy

- Why important: Hypoxia
 - ✓ Common occurrence in pneumonia (severe & complicated)
 - ✓ Increases mortality
- Goal: SpO₂ > 92-94%
- Indications
 - ✓ Severe pneumonia (grunting/cyanosis/Severe lower chest in-drawing)
 - ✓ Respiratory rate ≥ 70 breaths/min
 - ✓ Hypoxia (Sat < 90%)

*If oxygen saturation < 90%, refer as Severe Pneumonia or Very Severe Disease

**If the child has wheezing, give 3 doses of nebulized salbutamol for 20 minutes; or 2-4 puffs of salbutamol MDI (at a gap of 2-3 min between each puff) with spacer repeated every 20 minutes and if there is improvement continue bronchodilators under monitoring

*** If referral is not feasible or refused, manage with oral amoxicillin twice a day and injection gentamicin once a day for 7 days in consultation with MO PHC and daily assessment (see table 4)

§ Guidelines

Methods of oxygen administration

- Heated, humidified oxygen
- Nasal prongs or a nasal or nasopharyngeal catheter (no face or head mask)
- Oxygen flow-rate with canula, head box, and face mask ???
- Other devices: CPAP, HHHFNC, Invasive ventilation



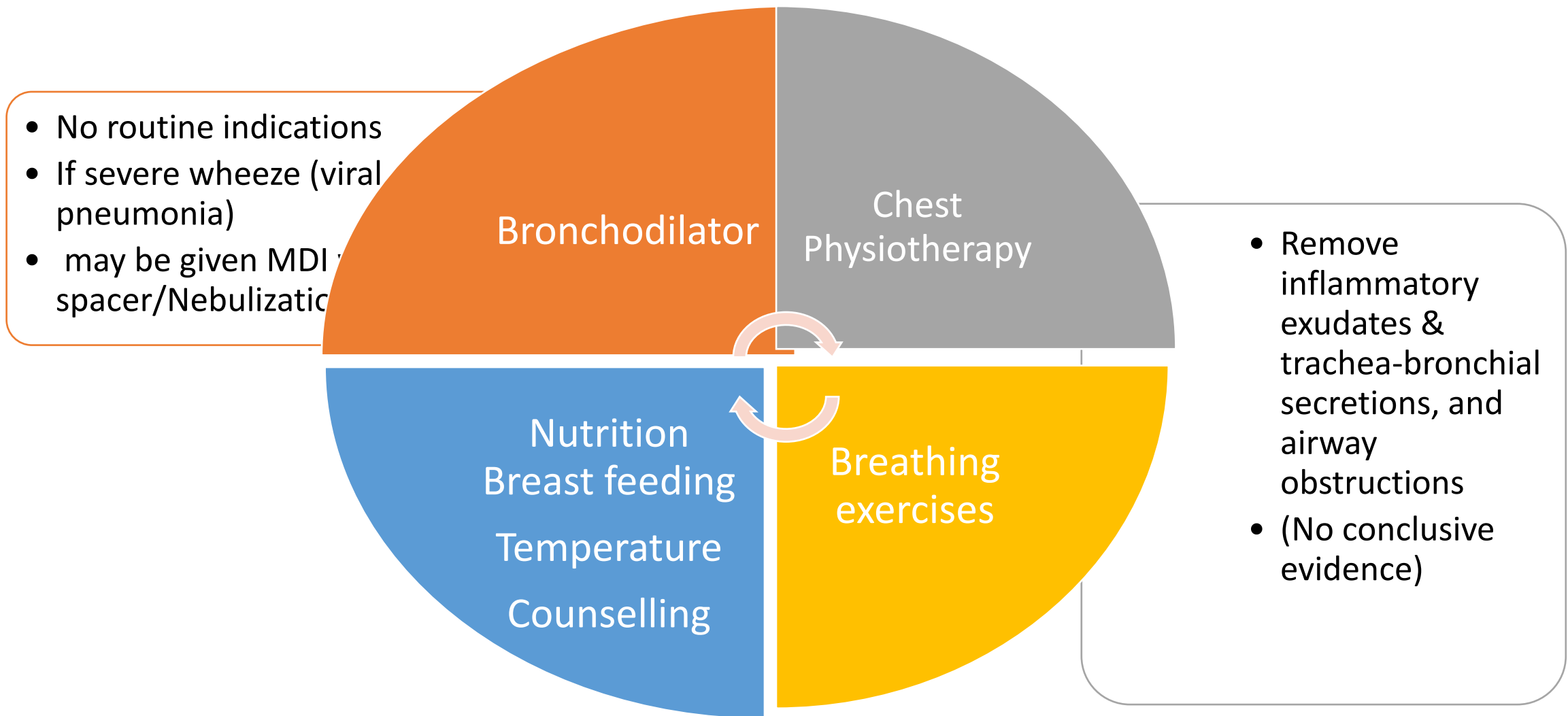


Fluid therapy: why important ?

- Unable to maintain their fluid intake because of breathlessness or fatigue
- Non-severe cases: breast-feeding or oral fluid/feed
- Options in severe case: Naso-gastric or Intravenous fluid therapy
- Indication of IV fluids
 - ✓ Neonates & young children with severe distress
 - ✓ Persistent vomiting
- Monitor fluid balance & serum electrolyte (e.g., Na^+): *SIADH is likely in severe & complicated cases*

Other Medications

- Fever
 - ✓ Paracetamol (@15mg/kg/dose) to keep child comfortable (avoid tepid sponging)
- Cough
 - ✓ Avoid cough suppressants.
 - ✓ Intake of adequate fluids.
 - ✓ Household remedies (Tulsi, ginger, honey)
 - ✓ No role of nebulization
- Vomiting (post-tussive)
 - ✓ Anti-emetics routinely not required
 - ✓ If persistent vomiting: anti-emetics
- Maintain proper hydration
- Identifying signs of deterioration/serious illness and complications
- Access to referral facility (providing a 'safety net')



**If the child has wheezing, give 3 doses of nebulized salbutamol for 20 minutes; or 2-4 puffs of salbutamol MDI (at a gap of 2-3 min between each puff) with spacer repeated every 20 minutes and if there is improvement continue bronchodilators under monitoring



Counselling in Pneumonia

- **Counselling** to Parents, Family & the Child
- **Why Counselling ?**
 - Parents & Children Under stress
 - Psychological morbidities (post ICU care)
 - -posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, depression.
 - Financial stress
 - Worry about recovery & long-term complications
 - **Counselling** about Proper Diet, danger signs, supportive care , follow up etc.
- **Multidisciplinary Approach: most beneficial**
 - **post-intensive care unit patients.**

Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing



Dispose of the tissue afterwards

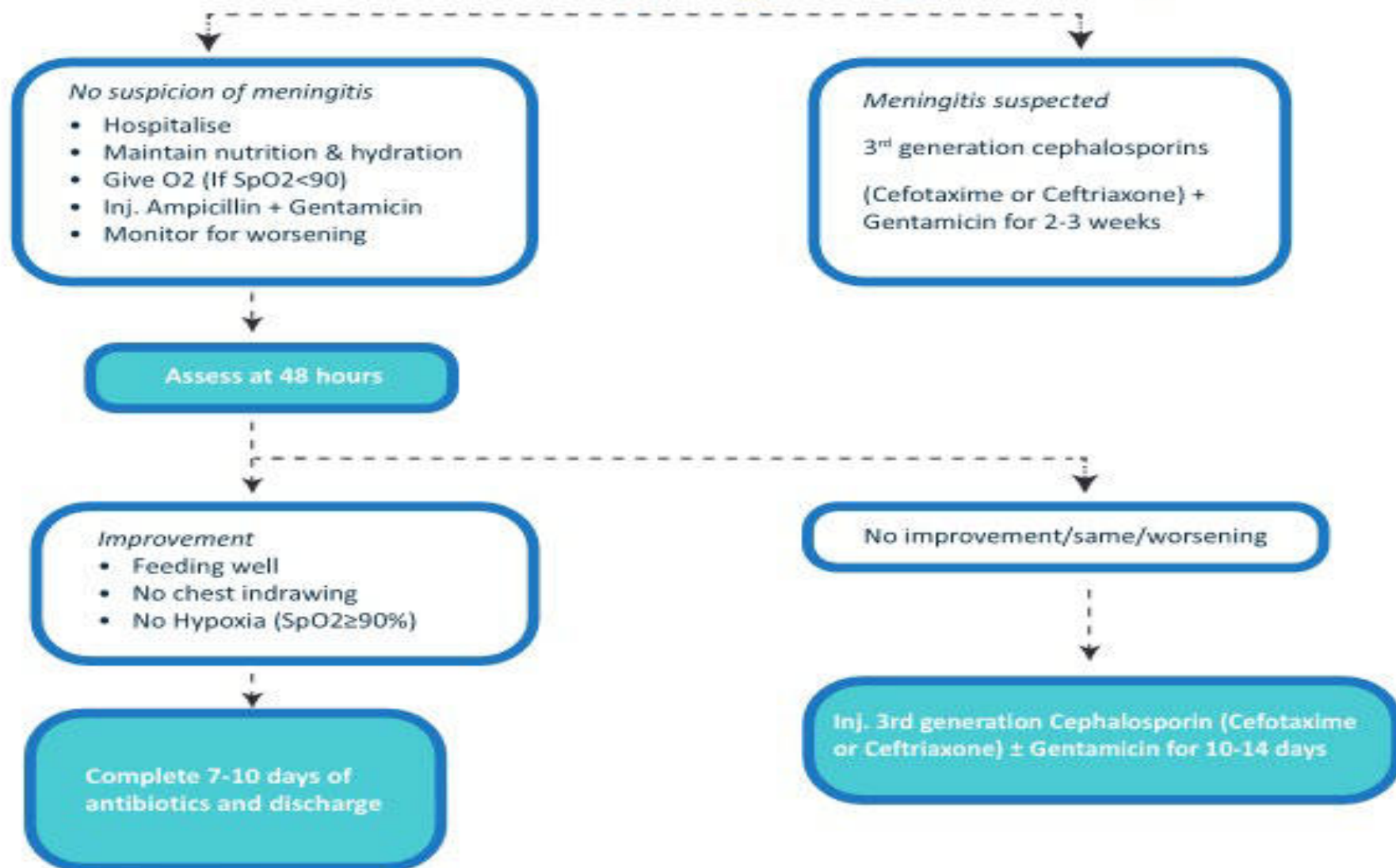


After coughing or sneezing, wash your hands with soap and water

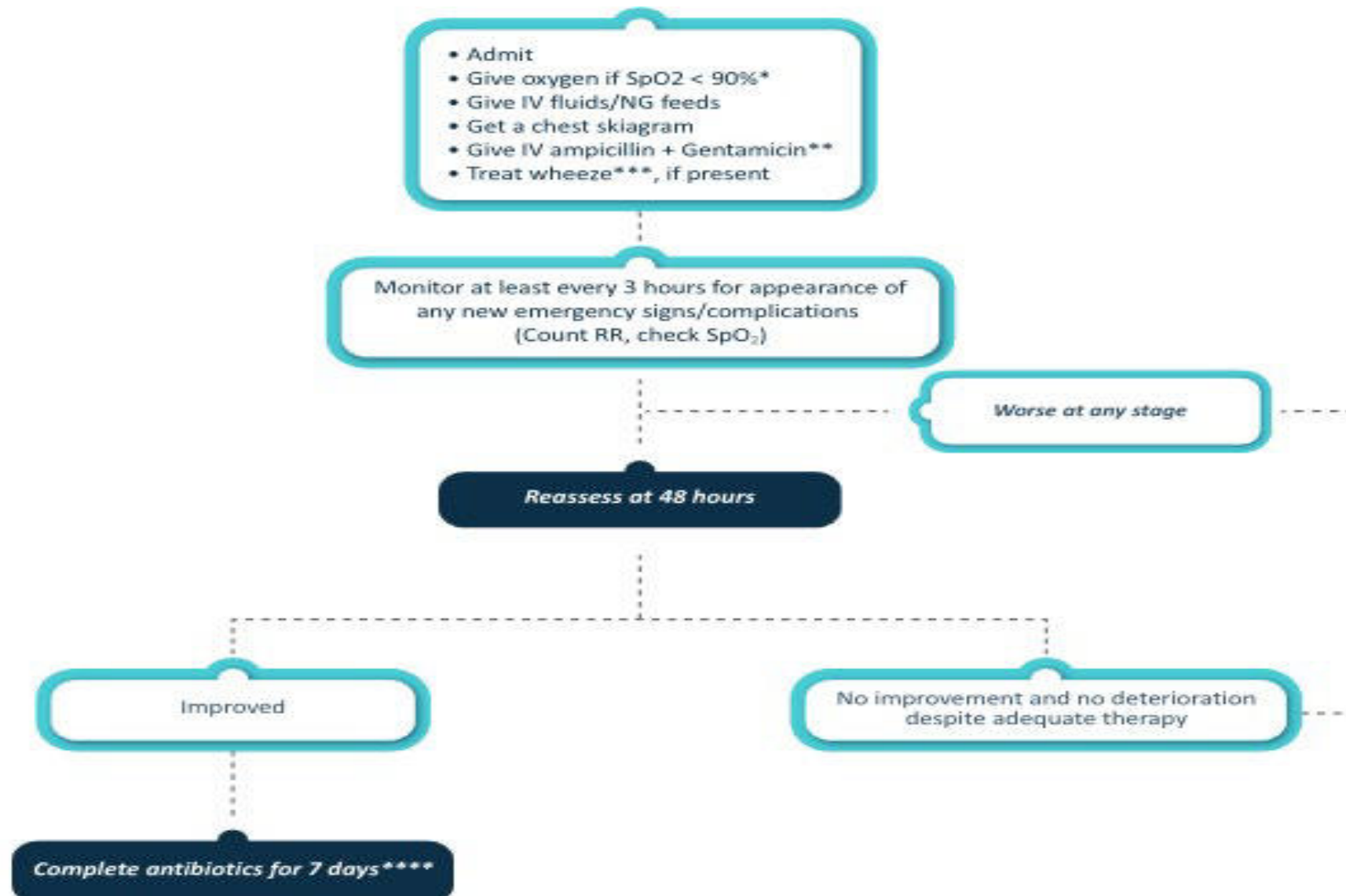


Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing

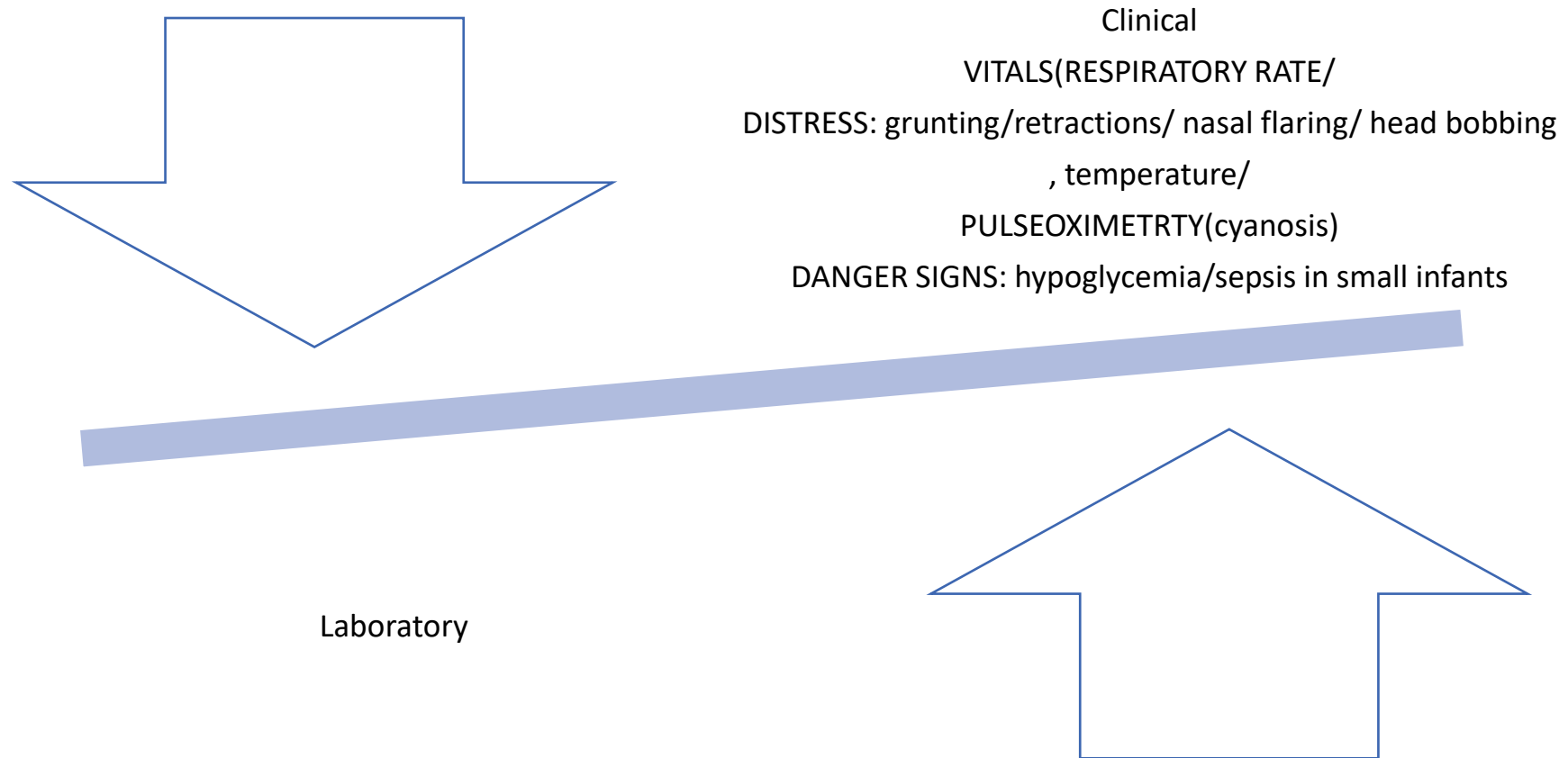
Severe Pneumonia in a young infant (≤ 2 months)



Management of Severe Pneumonia cases (2-59 months) admitted in health facilities



Monitoring



**. Chest X-ray :All cases of Severe pneumonia, non improving or
Diagnostic dilemma**

- Blood investigations (CRP, TLC, procalcitonin/ blood culture)
 - Do not reliably differentiate bacterial vs. viral

For detection of viruses: Polymerase chain reaction (PCR): may be useful

- Interpreted with caution, as healthy or in URTI may have positive. Availability and cost

Chest ultrasound :emerging POC test

**CHEST CT : NO ROUTINE USE : Suppurative parenchymal complication: abscess/
necrotizing pneumonia/ necrosis, Pleural complications ,Diagnostic dilemma**

•

Case

- 7 yr old Rakesh – treated for pneumonia in a district hospital for 10 days with oral antibiotics brought with persistent fever and increasing Respiratory distress
- H/o Lt sided chest pain , dull note and absent breath sounds in Lt infarscapular area.
- **Diagnosis ? Drugs of choice ? Duration of therapy ?**
 - Lt Empyema
 - Parenteral
 - Cefotaxime or Ceftriaxone plus Clinadamycin

Non-Response to Initial Empirical Therapy

??Complications

Empyema
Abscess

??Different pathogen

Mycobacterium
tuberculosis
Mycoplasma
COVID 19

??Drug resistance

B lactam producing
Hib, Drug resistant
staph aureus
including community
acq methicillin
resistance

Highest risk factors for childhood Pneumonia deaths in India :2017

53%

caused by
child wasting

27%

caused by
outdoor air
pollution

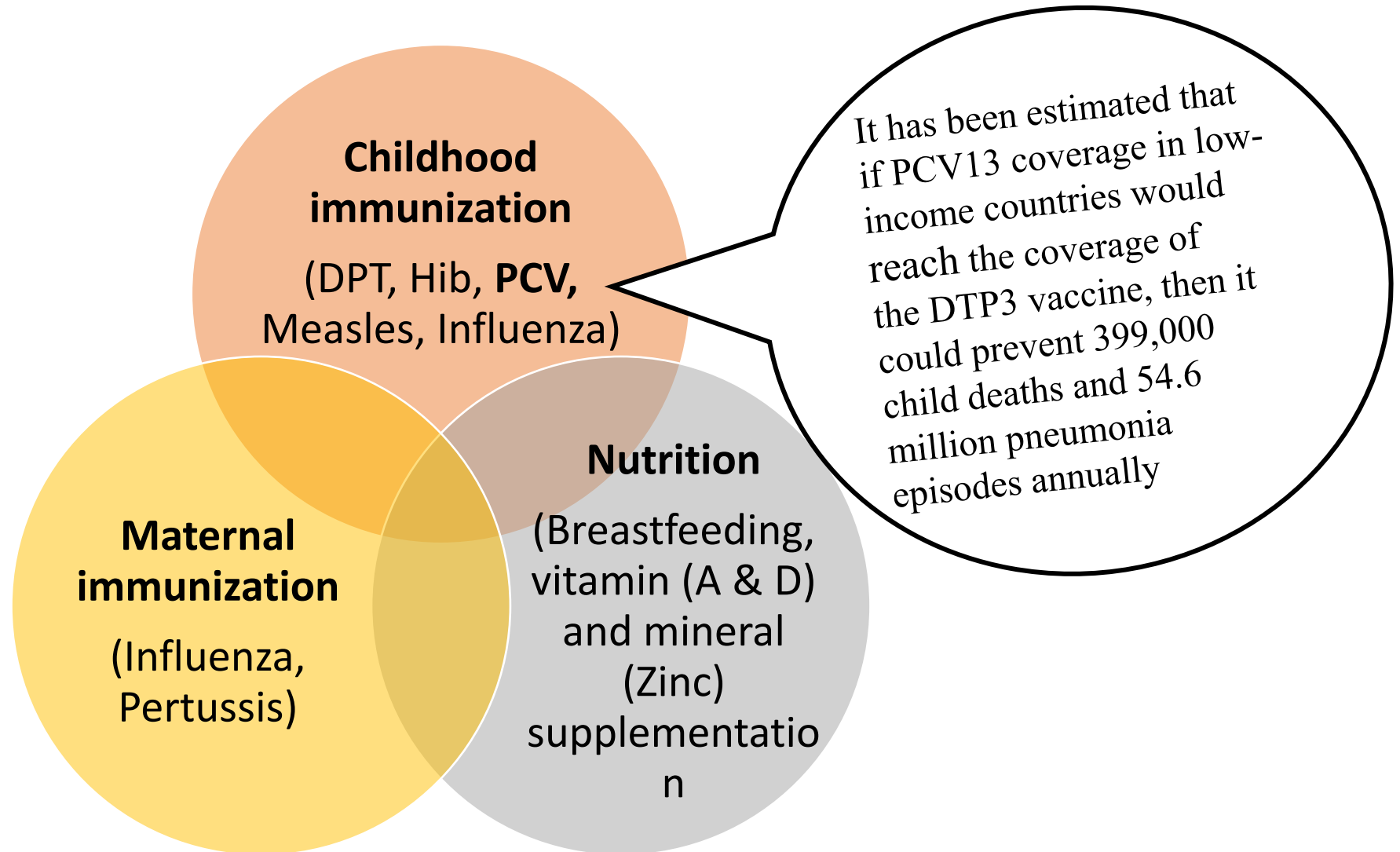
22%

caused by indoor
air pollution from
solid fuels

PROTECT, PREVENT AND TREAT



Prevention of Pneumonia



Key messages

Pneumonia still highest cause of U5 mortality Globally and India

**SEVERE PNEUMONIA:EARLY RECOGNIZION/ APPROPRIATE ANTIBIOTICS/
PULSE OXIMETRY/OXYGEN THERAPY**

Non responsive pneumonia: Think **COMPLICATIONS!!!**

After malnutrition growing pollution (indoor & outdoor): Risk factor

IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON CHILDREN

Dr. Harshal Ramesh Salve

MBBS, MD, FIPHA

Additional Professor

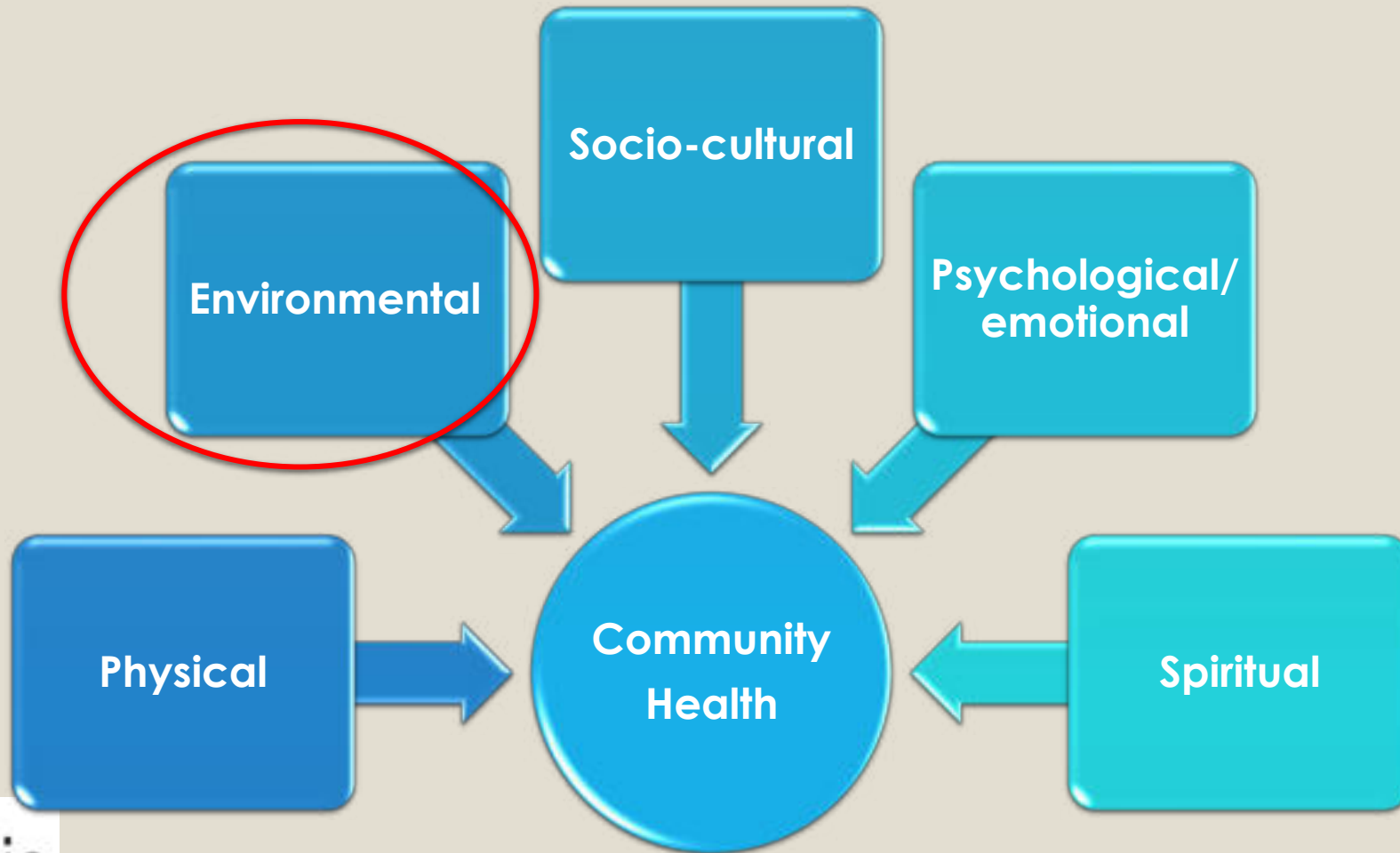
Centre for Community Medicine

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Co-ordinator CAPHER India

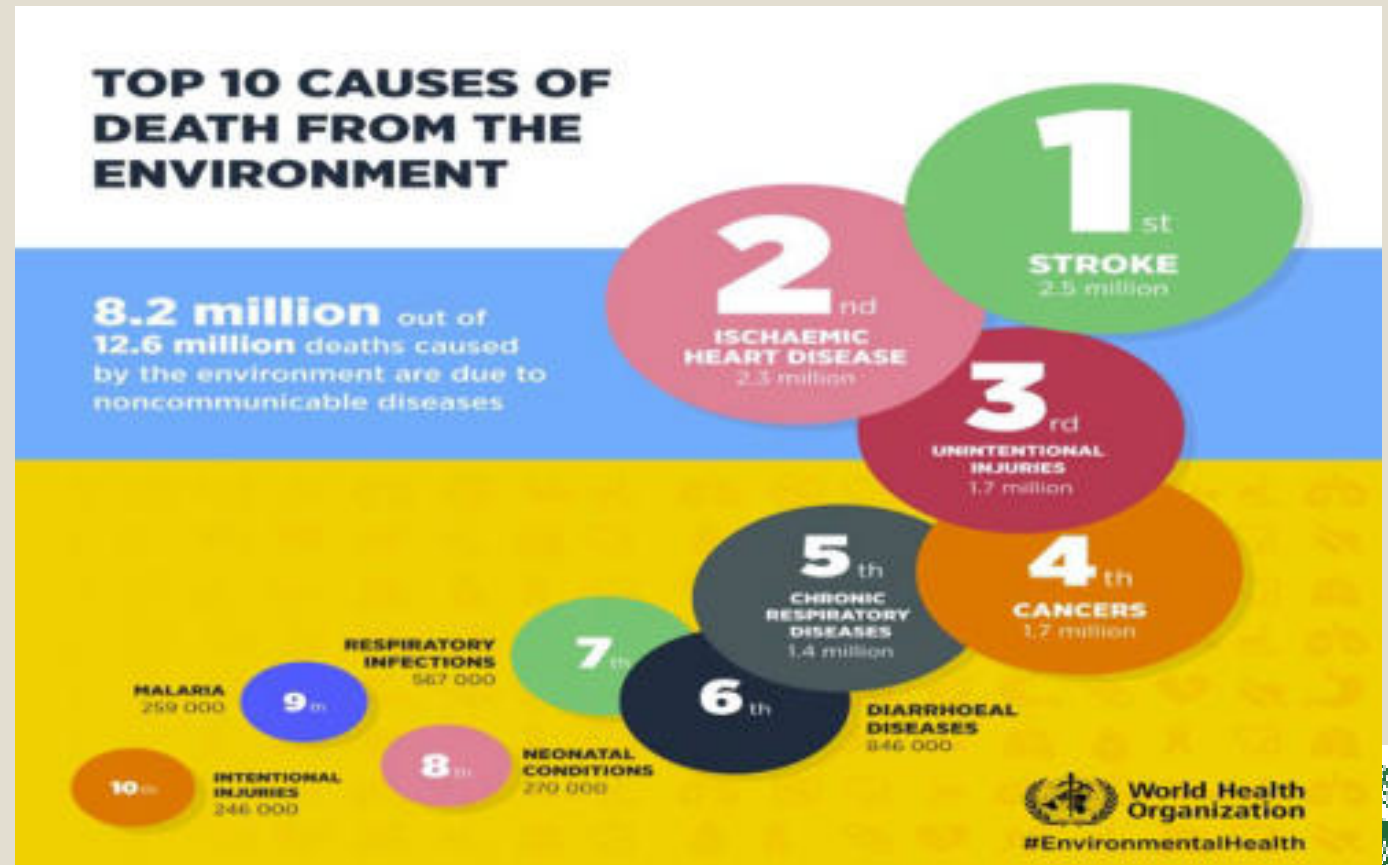
Email: harshalsalve@aiims.edu

Why Environmental health?



Burden of disease attributed environmental exposure

- 24% of diseases and 23% of mortality globally



Levels of Environmental Risks

| Level 0 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| | Environmental/ occupational risks | Unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing | Unsafe water source | Ambient particulate matter pollution Household air pollution from solid fuels |
| | | | Unsafe sanitation | |
| | | | No handwashing with soap | |
| | | Air pollution | Particulate matter pollution | |
| | | | Ambient ozone pollution | |
| | | Other environmental risks | Residential radon | |
| | | | Lead exposure | |
| | | | Occupational risks | Occupational carcinogens |
| | | Occupational asthmagens | | |
| | | Occupational particulate matter, gases, and fumes | | |
| | | Occupational noise | | |
| | | Occupational injuries | | |
| | | Occupational ergonomic factors | | |

Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) risk factor hierarchy (adapted from Stanaway et al. 2018).



WHO Air Quality Standards - 2021

| Pollutant | Averaging time | 2005 AQGs | 2021 AQG level |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| PM _{2.5} , µg/m ³ | Annual | 10 | 5 |
| | 24-hour ^a | 25 | 15 |
| PM ₁₀ , µg/m ³ | Annual | 20 | 15 |
| | 24-hour ^a | 50 | 45 |
| O ₃ , µg/m ³ | Peak season ^b | – | 60 |
| | 8-hour ^a | 100 | 100 |
| NO ₂ , µg/m ³ | Annual | 40 | 10 |
| | 24-hour ^a | – | 25 |
| SO ₂ , µg/m ³ | 24-hour ^a | 20 | 40 |
| CO, mg/m ³ | 24-hour ^a | – | 4 |

Revision of NAAQ Standards are in process

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (2009)

| Sr. No | Pollutants | Time Weighted Average | Concentration in Ambient Air | |
|--------|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | Industrial, Residential, Rural, and Other Areas | Ecologically Sensitive Area |
| 1 | Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), µg/m ³ | Annual* | 50 | 20 |
| | | 24 hours** | 80 | 80 |
| 2 | Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), µg/m ³ | Annual* | 40 | 30 |
| | | 24 hours** | 80 | 80 |
| 3 | Particulate matter (Size <10 µm) or PM ₁₀ µg/m ³ | Annual* | 60 | 60 |
| | | 24 hours** | 100 | 100 |
| 4 | Particulate matter (Size <2.5 µm) or PM _{2.5} µg/m ³ | Annual* | 40 | 40 |
| | | 24 hours** | 60 | 60 |
| 5 | Ozone (O ₃), µg/m ³ | 8 hours** | 100 | 100 |
| | | 1 hours** | 180 | 180 |
| 6 | Lead (Pb), µg/m ³ | Annual* | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| | | 24 hours** | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 7 | Carbon monoxide (CO), mg/m ³ | 8 hours** | 02 | 02 |
| | | 1 hours** | 04 | 04 |
| 8 | Ammonia (NH ₃), µg/m ³ | Annual* | 100 | 100 |
| | | 24 hours** | 400 | 400 |
| 9 | Benzene (C ₆ H ₆), µg/m ³ | Annual* | 05 | 05 |
| 10 | Benzo(a) pyrene (BaP)-particulate phase only, ng/m ³ | Annual* | 01 | 01 |
| 11 | Arsenic (As), ng/m ³ | Annual* | 06 | 06 |
| 12 | Nickel (Ni), ng/m ³ | Annual* | 20 | 20 |

Ecologically sensitive areas:

Areas in which developmental activities is prohibited.
Eg:-Murud-Janjira , Dahanu, Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani, Sultanpur etc.



MAJOR AIR POLLUTANTS

| | Classification | Examples |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Based on source of origin | Natural air pollutants | dust, sea-salt, forest fires |
| | Anthropogenic air pollutants | stationary point sources, mobile sources, waste disposal landfills, controlled burning etc |
| Based on method of origin | Primary air pollutants | Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Carbon monoxide (CO), Lead (Pb), Ammonia (NH₃) |
| | Secondary air pollutants | Ozone , Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Photochemical smog |
| Based on chemical composition | Gaseous air pollutants | SO ₂ , NO _x , O ₃ , CO |
| | Particulate air pollutants | PM10 , PM2.5 , PM1 |

Why there is need to take the action on Air Pollution effects?

Responsible for One in every eight death in India ¹

Second most common leading risk factor (DALY) in India²

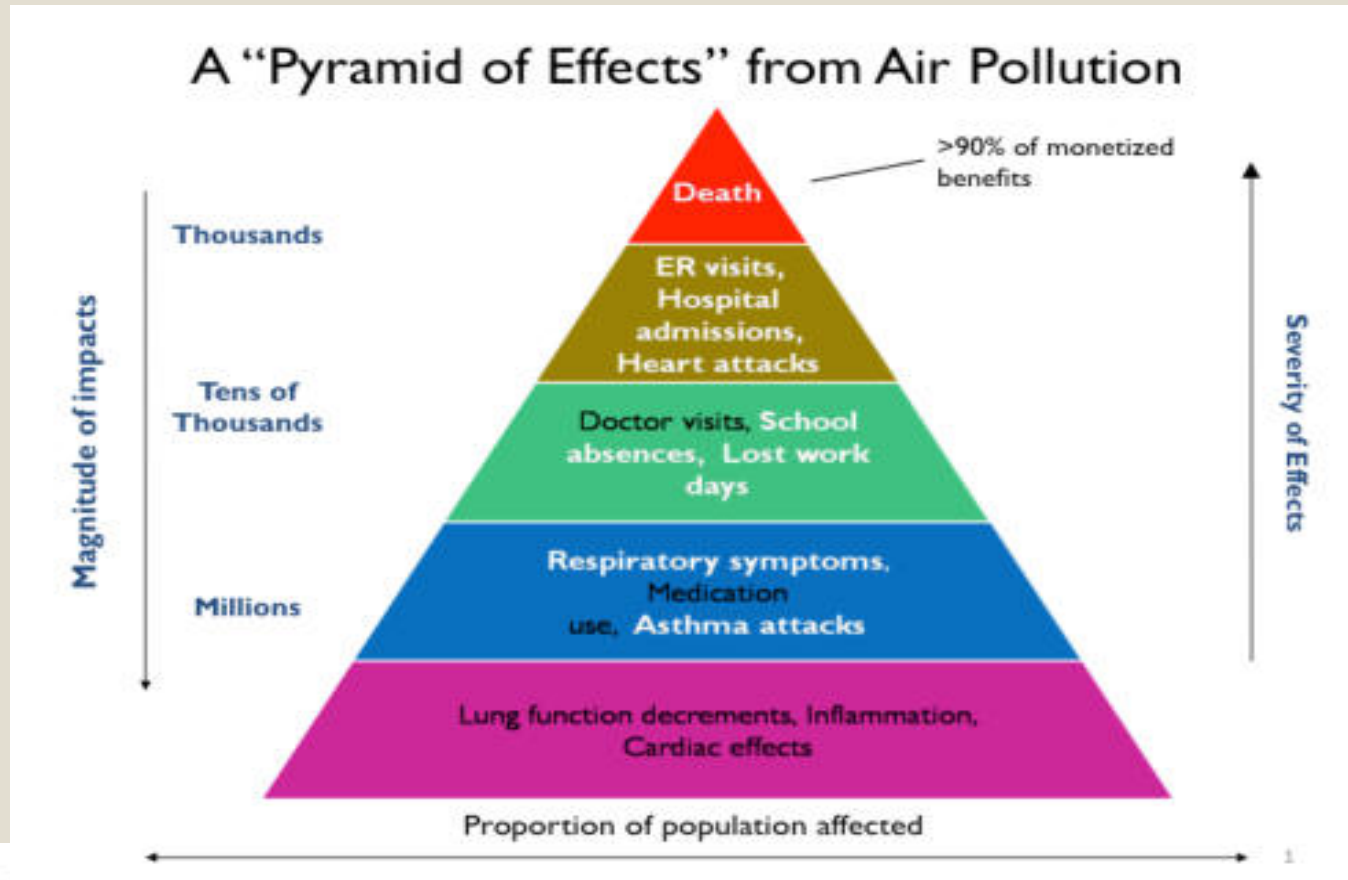
- 99% of India's population exposed to more than recommended ($10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

1. India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative Collaborators Nations within a nation: variations in epidemiological transition across the states of India, 1990-2016 in the Global Burden of Disease Study. Lancet. 2017 Dec 2;390(10111):2437-2460. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32804-0. Epub 2017. 14

2. Gorai AK, Tchounwou PB, Biswal SS, Tulsi F. Spatio-Temporal Variation of Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Concentrations and Its Health Impacts in a Mega City, Delhi in India. Environ Health Insights. 2018 Aug 19;12:1178630218792861. doi: 10.1177/1178630218792861. eCollection 2018. Ai S, Qian ZM, Guo Y, Yang Y, Rolling CA, Liu E, et al Long-term exposure to ambient fine particles associated with asthma: A cross-sectional study among older adults in six low- and middle-income countries. Environ Res. 2019 Jan;168:141-145. doi: 10.1016/j.envres.2018.09.028. Epub 2018 Sep 24.

3. Upadhyay A, Dey S, Chowdhury S, Goyal P. Expected health benefits from mitigation of emissions from major anthropogenic PM_{2.5} sources in India: Statistics at state level. Environ Pollut. 2018 Nov;242(Pt B):1817-1826. doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2018.07.085. Epub 2018 Jul 24

Variety of impacts

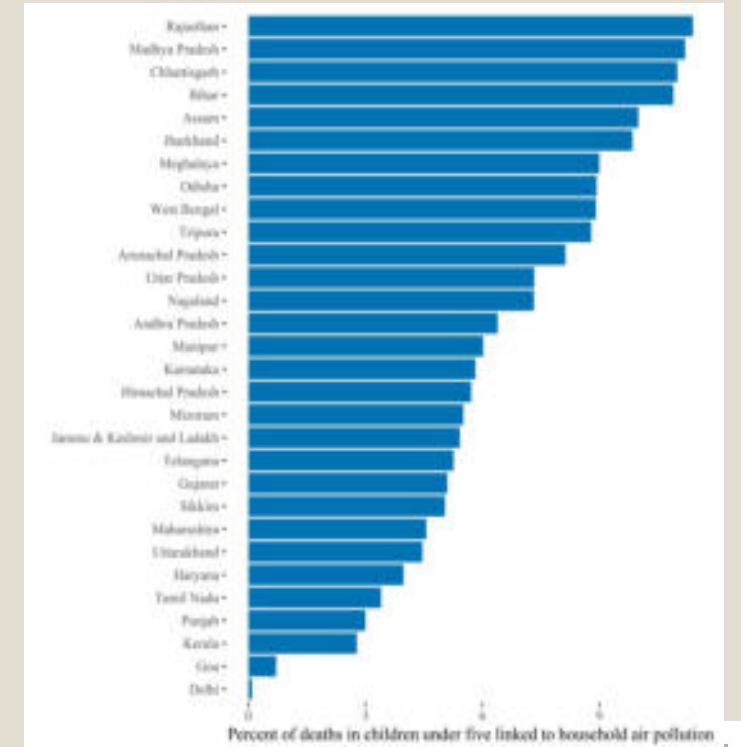
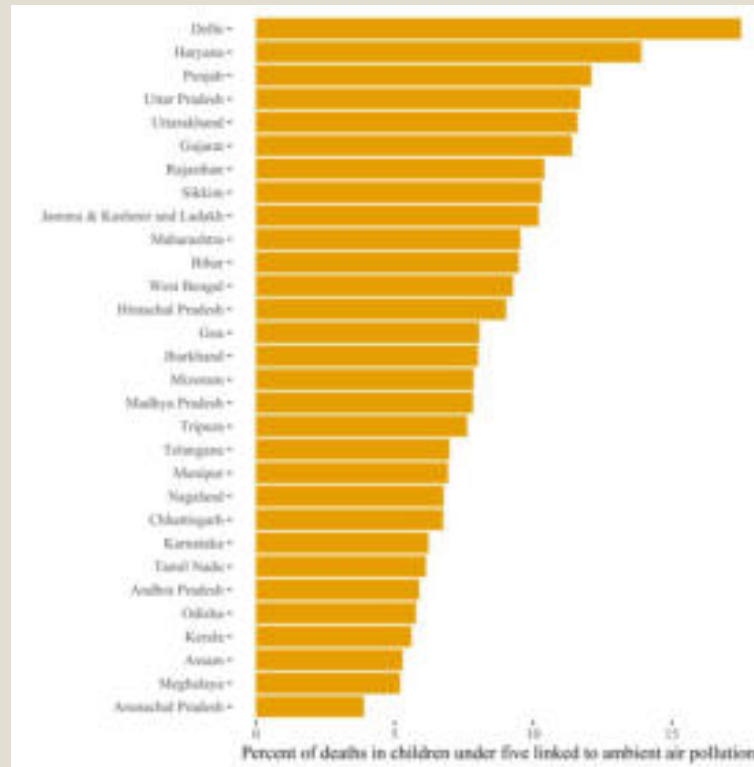


Source: <https://www.epa.gov/benmap/how-benmap-estimates-health-and-economic-effects-air-pollution>

Air Pollution and Child mortality

2nd leading risk factor for deaths in children under 14 years

16% of all deaths in children



Air Pollution and Child mortality

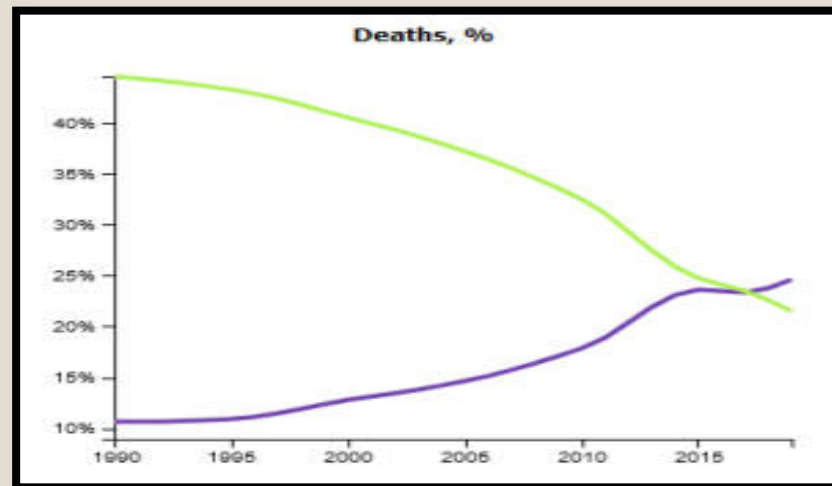
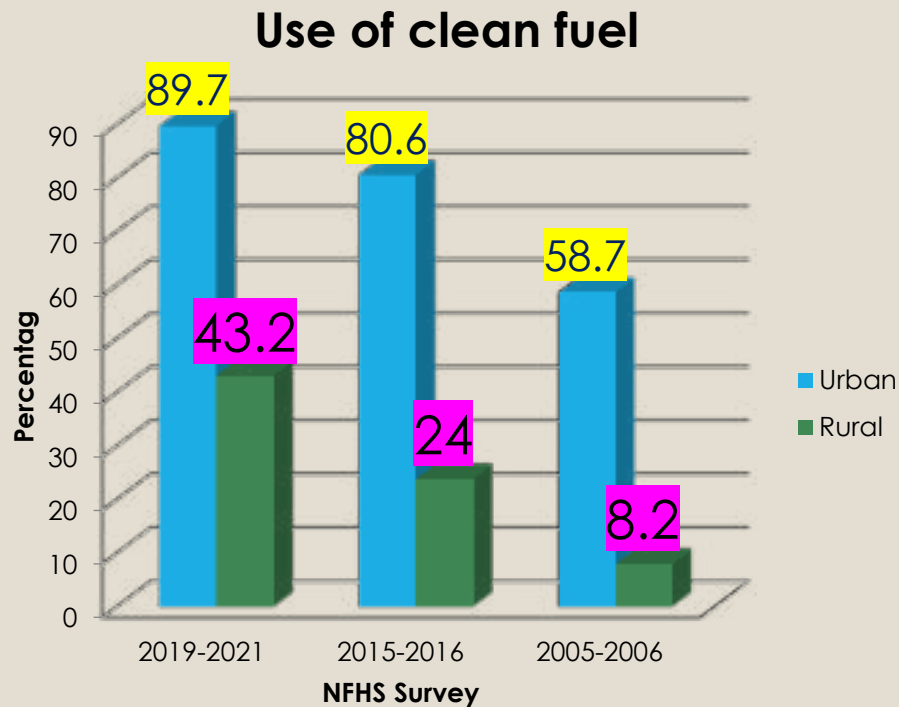


Figure 2: Percentage of LRIs linked to ambient air pollution (purple) and household air pollution (green) since 1990

State wise and urban/rural disparity exists

Exposure of Air Pollution in Intra – Uterine life

- Low birth weight and preterm birth are leading risk factors for death in the first month of life.
- India ->exposure to air pollution was linked to the deaths of 1 16,000 infants within the first month of being born.
- Archana Patel et al (2015) - **increased risk of perinatal mortality among households using polluting fuels (adjusted relative risk (aRR) 1.44, 95 % CI 1.30-1.61)**
- A study in Chennai, that a **10 µg/m³** increase during pregnancy was associated with a **4 g (95% CI:1.08 g, 6.76 g)** decrease in birth-weight

Ghosh R, Causey K, Burkart K, Wozniak S, Cohen A, Brauer M. Ambient and household PM_{2.5} pollution and adverse perinatal outcomes: A meta-regression and analysis of attributable global burden for 204 countries and territories. *PLoS medicine*. 2021 Sep 28;18(9):e1003718.

Balakrishnan K, Ghosh S, Thangavel G, Sambandam S, Mukhopadhyay K, Puttaswamy N, Sadasivam A, Ramaswamy P, Johnson P, Kuppuswamy R, Natesan D. Exposures to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and birthweight in a rural-urban, mother-child cohort in Tamil Nadu, India. *Environmental research*. 2018 Feb 1;161:524-31.

Patel AB, Meleth S, Pasha O, Goudar SS, Esamai F, Garces AL, Chomba E, McClure EM, Wright LL, Koso-Thomas M, Moore JL, Saleem S, Liechty EA, Goldenberg RL, Derman RJ, Hambidge KM, Carlo WA, Hibberd PL. Impact of exposure to cooking fuels on stillbirths, perinatal, very early and late neonatal mortality - a multicenter prospective cohort study in rural communities in India, Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia and Guatemala. *Matern Health Neonatol Perinatol*. 2015 Jul 21;1:18.

Exposure of air pollution during childhood

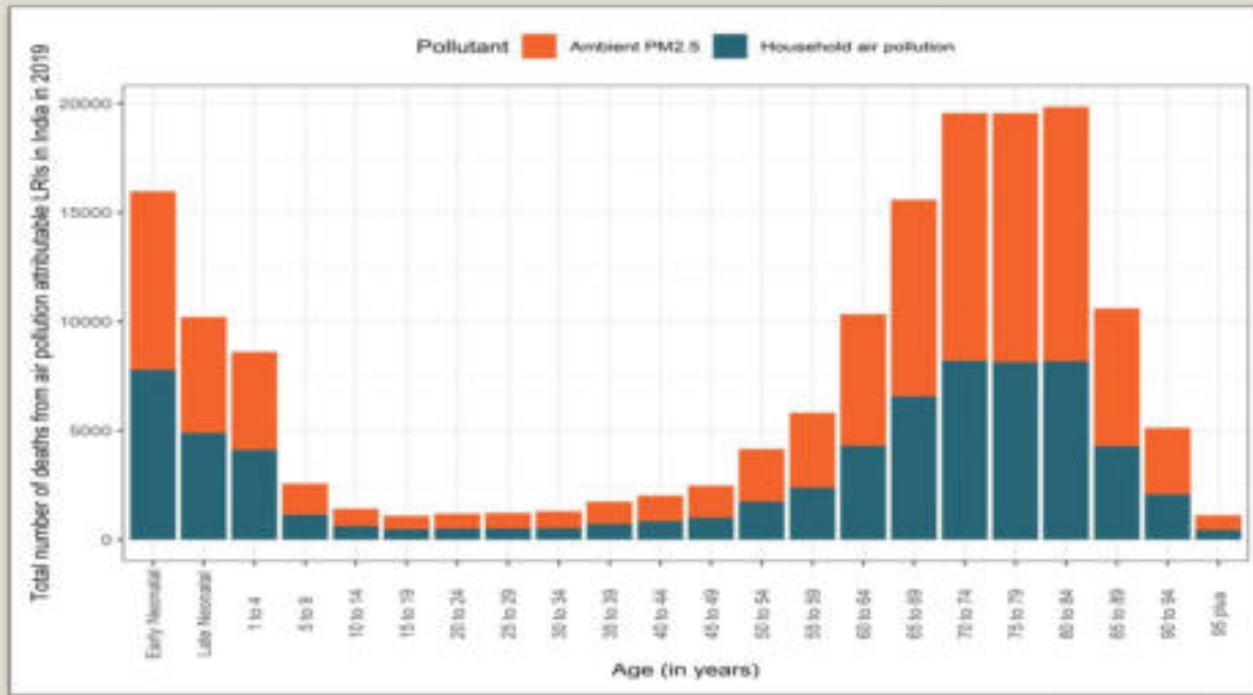


Figure 3:: Distribution of lower respiratory infection (LRI) deaths in 2019 linked to PM2.5 and household air pollution, by age (years, except early neonatal [0 to 6 days] and late neonatal [7 to 27 days]).

- Exposure to air pollution **reduce lung function among children**
- Continuous exposure to (PM10, PM2.5 nitrogen dioxide) can cause **respiratory infections among children**

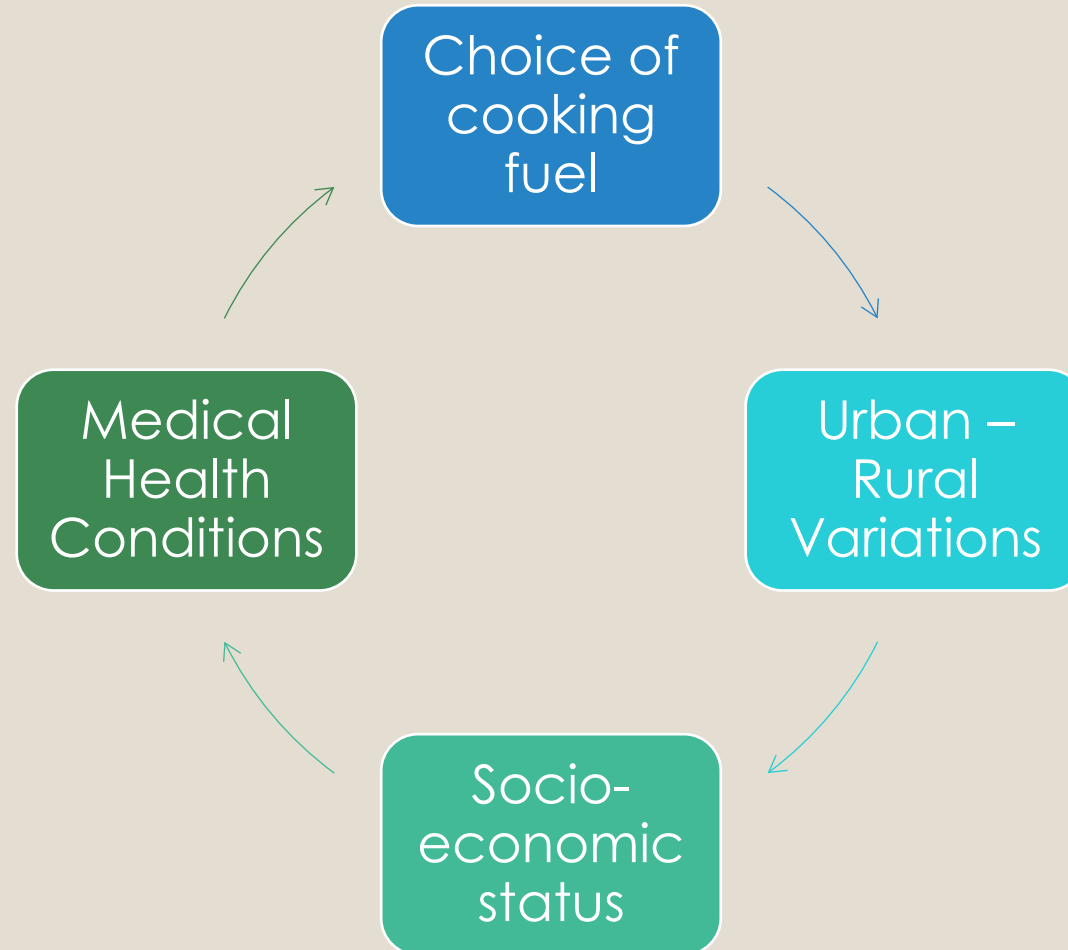
Exposure of air pollution during childhood

- **Short term exposure**
 - Ear, nose, and throat irritation
 - Aggravated conditions such as allergies and asthma
 - Eczema
- **Long term exposure**
 - New cases of childhood asthma
 - Increase the risk of developing chronic respiratory diseases such as COPD **during adulthood**
 - Childhood anaemia
 - Allergic rhinitis
 - Neurodevelopmental outcomes
 - Stunting in children

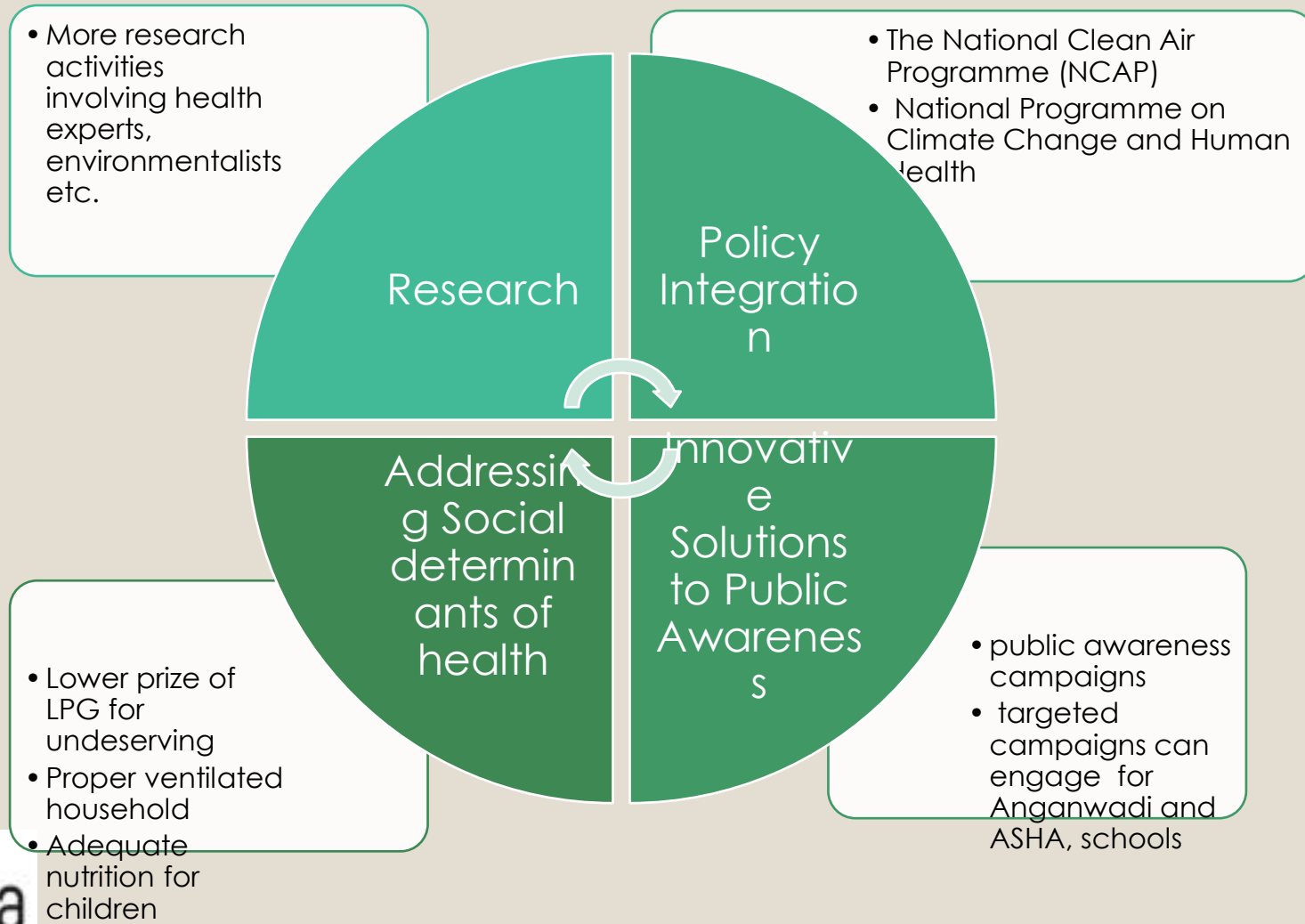


Salvi SS, Kumar A, Puri H, Bishnoi S, Asaf BB, Ghorpade D, Madas S, Agrawal A, Kumar A. Association between air pollution, body mass index, respiratory symptoms, and asthma among adolescent school children living in Delhi, India. *Lung India*. 2021 Sep-Oct;38(5):408-415. doi: 10.4103/lungindia.lungindia_955_20. PMID: 34472517; PMCID: PMC8509169.

Determinants of the health impacts related to air pollution in children



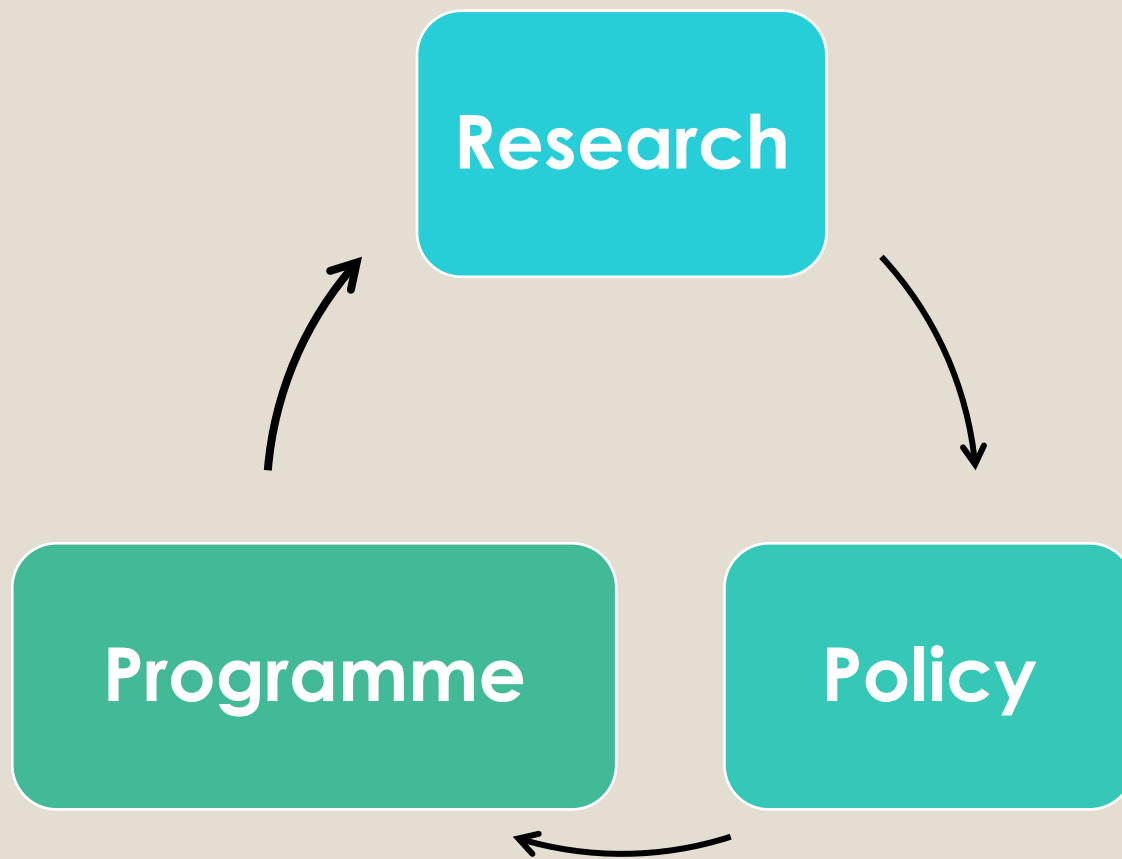
Recommendations



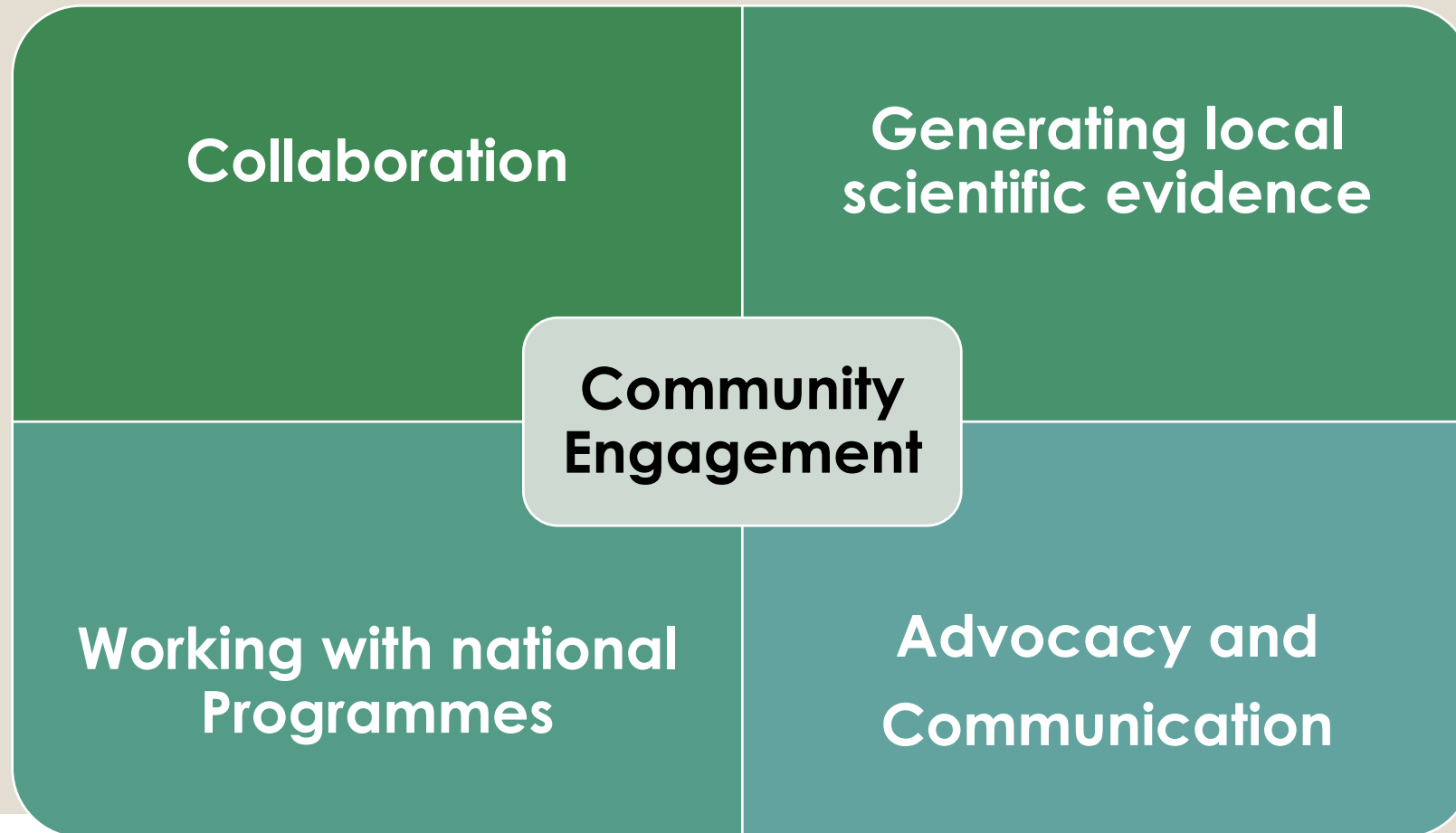
ACTION REQUIRED

E-Connect Seriese - MOHFW - January 2025

Addressing Air Pollution and NCDs



Domains for Action



AIIMS - IIT Delhi collaboration – Capitalizing on strengths



Strengths

- Epidemiology
- Medical Sciences
- Running Cohort
- Network development



Strengths

- Exposure measurement
- Technology use and GIS
- Modeling

Institutional mechanism is key for sustainability

AIIMS – IIT Study at Ballabgarh

Mortality burden of ambient PM_{2.5} exposure in Delhi NCR

(CCM, AIIMS – IIT Delhi Joint Project)

Objectives

Development of a mortality model by collating cause-specific mortality data and generating high-resolution PM_{2.5} exposure data for Delhi NCR

Estimate mortality burden due to short-term exposure to ambient PM_{2.5} in Delhi NCR

| | IRR | p-value | 95% Confidence Interval | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------|-------|
| Total deaths | 1.105 | 0.000 | 1.068 | 1.144 |
| Respiratory Diseases | 1.026 | 0.353 | .971 | 1.085 |
| CVD | 1.043 | 0.127 | .988 | 1.102 |

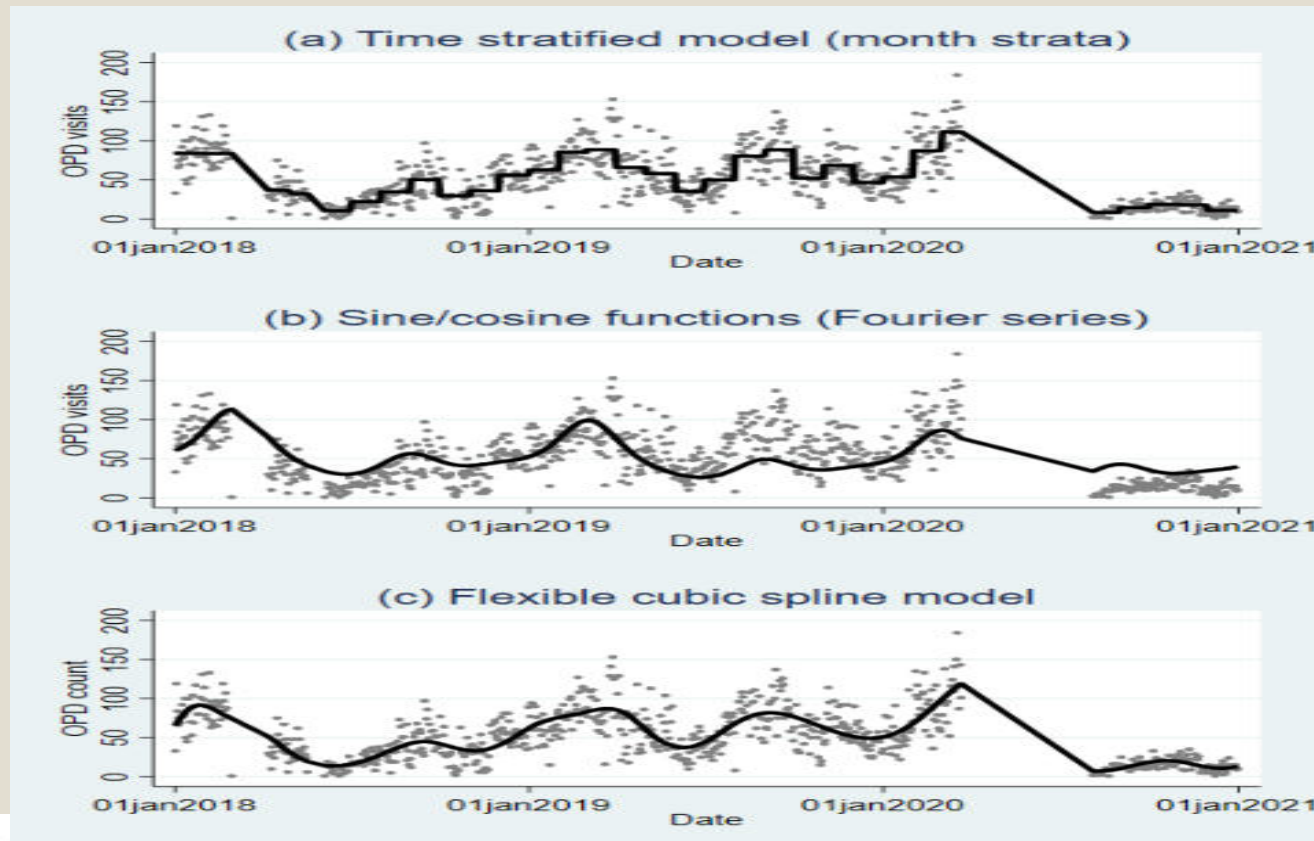
PI - Harshal Ramesh Salve (AIIMS) – Sagnik Dey (IIT D)

Article under peer review. PI do not quote

E-Connect Series - MOHFW - January 2025



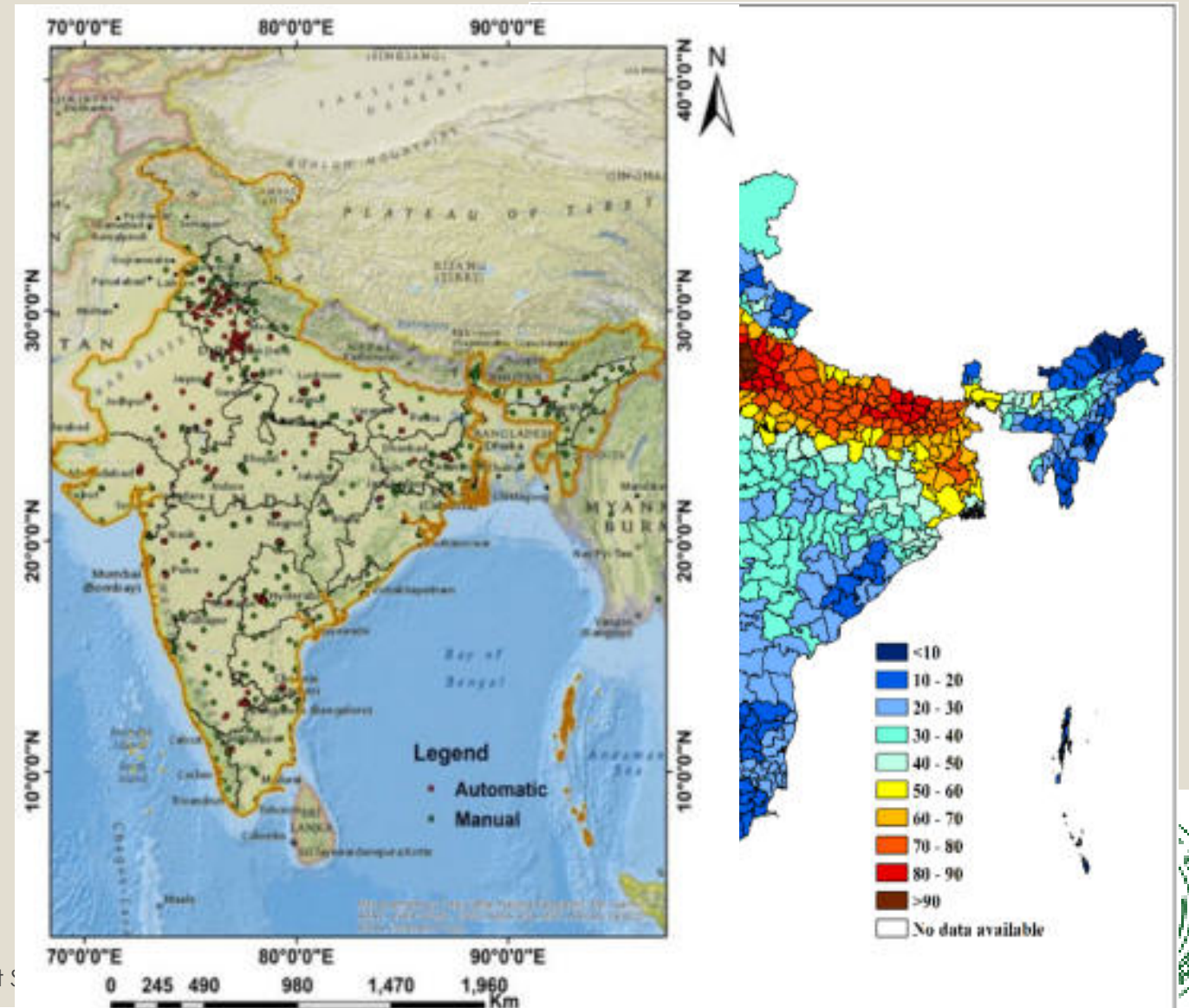
PM 2.5 Exposure and OPD consultation for Cardio-respiratory illness – CRHSP Ballabgarh



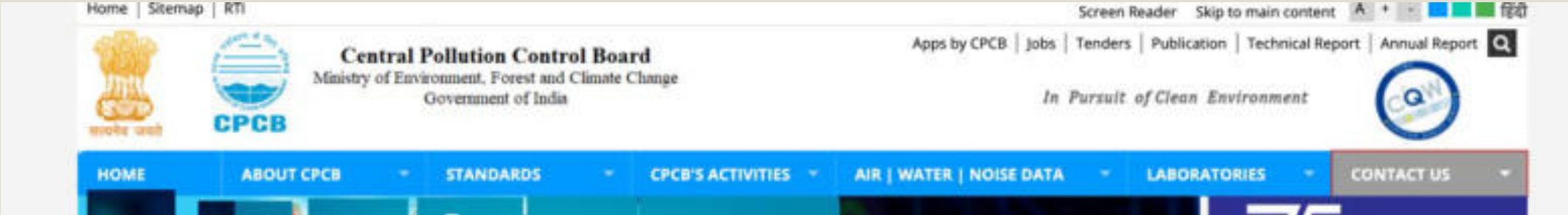
PM 2.5 (7 day Lag)
IRR – 1.02 (1.01 – 1.04)

Sources of Air Pollution data

- Reference-grade monitoring network ($PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , SO_2 , NO_2 , O_3 , Benzene, CO, etc.); expected to double by 2024 under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- Satellite-based $PM_{2.5}$ database at 1 km (other pollutants: NO_2 , SO_2 , O_3 etc.)
- Other networks like BC from IMD and ISRO; MAPAN and SAFAR networks
- Personal exposure monitoring in indoor microenvironments from past and existing cohorts



Sources of Air Pollution data



<https://cpcb.nic.in>



<http://safar.tropmet.res.in/RESEARCH/14-7-Details>





CAPHER-India

Collaborative for Air Pollution and Health Effects Research-India

Objectives

- To build partnerships among research institutions to develop and implement research studies on health effects of air pollution
- To facilitate development of collaborative research proposals to fill critical evidence gaps
- To conduct capacity building exercises/programs targeted at early career researchers

Capher-India: Steering Committee



Dr. Anand Krishnan
All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi



Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan
Shri Ramchandra Institute of Higher Education
and Research Chennai



Dr. Santu Ghosh
St John Medical College, Bengaluru



Dr. Aparajita Chattopadhyay
Indian Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai



Professor Chandra Venkataraman
IDP Climate Studies, IIT Bombay

Connect Series - MOHFW - January 2025



Capher-India: Secretariat



Dr. Harshal Ramesh Salve,
AIIMS New Delhi



Dr. Sagnik Dey,
IIT Delhi



Dr. Surbhi Kapoor
Research Scientist, AIIMS New Delhi

Secretariat office: #40, Centre for Community Medicine, old OT Block,
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar New Delhi-110029
Email: capherindia@gmail.com, Ph: 91-11-26593366

E-Connect Seriese - MOHFW - January 2025



CAPHER – India – Air Health Bulletin



Year 2021 - 22



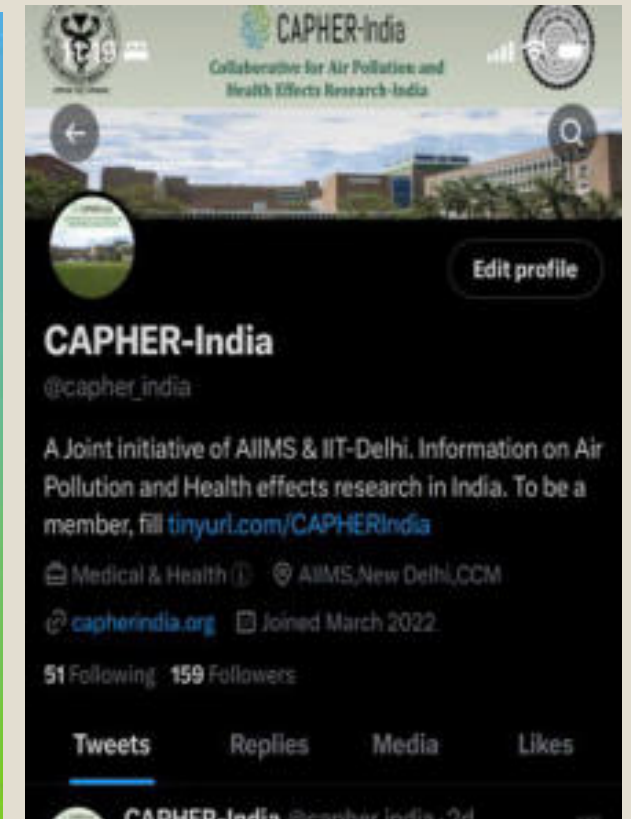
Year 2022 - 23



Year 2023 - 24

How to join CAPHER – India network

- Find us on Twitter for updates on CAPHER activities and upcoming events
- Write to the secretariat- capherindia@gmail.com
- To join the network, please complete the form - <https://tinyurl.com/CAPHERIndia>



Challenges ahead

- **Changing priorities of policy makers**
- **Lack of opportunities for integration**
- **Geographically restrictive approach**
- **Medium, long term goals are missing - Mostly A knee jerk reaction is observed**

PROGRAMME

E-Connect Serieese - MOHFW - January 2025

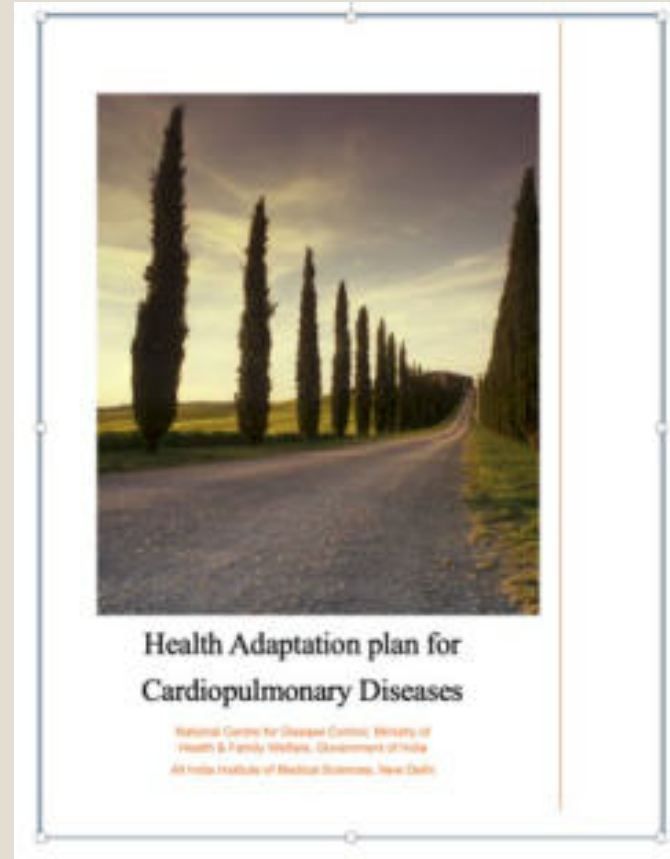
Capacity building of Health officials



Strengthening Capacity at the District Level for Mitigating Air Pollution related Health Impacts

National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry of Health, and Family Welfare

Centre for Excellence for Cardiopulmonary diseases under NPCCCH



Developed Training manual for State and District level officers in CC and Cardio-respiratory diseases



Actions needed at programme level



Centre of Excellence for Communicable Diseases under NPCCHH
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
1 or
National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH)

Specific actions at policy level

- Integration of health and environmental measures policy decisions serve to protect and improve health
- End health harmful subsidies
- Develop healthy and efficient transport options, such as combining rapid transit with walking/cycling
- Invest in health and evidence generation
- Provide safe housing conditions
- Regulate potentially health-harmful industries
- Select energy options, while considering health impacts and their financial implications

Specific actions at individual level

Decongestion of traffic by using Public transport and environment friendly vehicles



Air quality monitoring

Use of N95 Mask



Efficient use of energy,
use of clean fuel

Proper waste disposal

Tree Plantation and
conservation

Balanced diet with more
consumption of fruits and
vegetables



The Way Forward

- Continued Knowledge and skill enhancement of the self – Contribution in Science by generating local evidence
- Involvement of Medical colleges/ institutions
- Understand and priorities the local environmental risks and community needs
- Strategic communication to the Policy makers
- Strengthening of Programme
- Collaboration and Partnership

Passion, Perseverance and Partnership
are essential for essential for advancing science

Together wE Achieve More

THANK - YOU