

---

# **Viruses in Severe Respiratory Infections**

**Canadian Critical Care Forum**

November 9, 2018

**Michael Klompas MD, MPH, FIDSA, FSHEA**

Harvard Medical School, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute,  
and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

---

# Disclosures

---

- **Grant funding**
  - US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Massachusetts Department of Public Health

# Outline

---

- **Epidemiology & significance**
  - **Diagnosis**
  - **Treatment**
  - **Prevention**
-

# Outline

---

- **Epidemiology & significance**
  - **Diagnosis**
  - **Treatment**
  - **Prevention**
-

# Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Community-Acquired Pneumonia Requiring Hospitalization among U.S. Adults

S. Jain, W.H. Self, R.G. Wunderink, S. Fakhran, R. Balk, A.M. Bramley, C. Reed, C.G. Grijalva, E.J. Anderson, D.M. Courtney, J.D. Chappell, C. Qi, E.M. Hart, F. Carroll, C. Trabue, H.K. Donnelly, D.J. Williams, Y. Zhu, S.R. Arnold, K. Ampofo, G.W. Waterer, M. Levine, S. Lindstrom, J.M. Winchell, J.M. Katz, D. Erdman, E. Schneider, L.A. Hicks, J.A. McCullers, A.T. Pavia, K.M. Edwards, and L. Finelli, for the CDC EPIC Study Team\*

### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

Community-acquired pneumonia is a leading infectious cause of hospitalization and death among U.S. adults. Incidence estimates of pneumonia confirmed radiographically and with the use of current laboratory diagnostic tests are needed.

#### METHODS

We conducted active population-based surveillance for community-acquired pneumonia requiring hospitalization among adults 18 years of age or older in five hospitals in Chicago and Nashville. Patients with recent hospitalization or severe immunosuppression were excluded. Blood, urine, and respiratory specimens were systematically collected for culture, serologic testing, antigen detection, and molecular diagnostic testing. Study radiologists independently reviewed chest radiographs. We calculated population-based incidence rates of community-acquired pneumonia requiring hospitalization according to age and pathogen.

#### RESULTS

From January 2010 through June 2012, we enrolled 2488 of 3654 eligible adults (68%). Among 2320 adults with radiographic evidence of pneumonia (93%), the median age of the patients was 57 years (interquartile range, 46 to 71); 498 patients (21%) required intensive care, and 52 (2%) died. Among 2259 patients who had radiographic evidence of pneumonia and specimens available for both bacterial and viral testing, a pathogen was detected in 853 (38%); one or more viruses in 530 (23%), bacteria in 247 (11%), bacterial and viral pathogens in 59 (3%), and a fungal or mycobacterial pathogen in 17 (1%). The most common pathogens were human rhinovirus (in 9% of patients), influenza virus (in 6%), and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (in 5%). The annual incidence of pneumonia was 24.8 cases (95% confidence interval, 23.5 to 26.1) per 10,000 adults, with the highest rates among adults 65 to 79 years of age (63.0 cases per 10,000 adults) and those 80 years of age or older (164.3 cases per 10,000 adults). For each pathogen, the incidence increased with age.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The incidence of community-acquired pneumonia requiring hospitalization was highest among the oldest adults. Despite current diagnostic tests, no pathogen was detected in the majority of patients. Respiratory viruses were detected more frequently than bacteria. (Funded by the Influenza Division of the National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases.)

The authors' full names, academic degrees, and affiliations are listed in the Appendix. Address reprint requests to Dr. Jain at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd. NE, MS-A-32, Atlanta, GA 30333, or at [bwj8@cdc.gov](mailto:bwj8@cdc.gov).

\*A complete list of members of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Etiology of Pneumonia in the Community (EPIC) Study Team is provided in the Supplementary Appendix, available at [nejm.org](http://nejm.org).

This article was published on July 14, 2015, at [NEJM.org](http://nejm.org).

*N Engl J Med* 2015;373:415-27.  
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa150245  
Copyright © 2015 Massachusetts Medical Society.

N ENGL J MED 373:5 NEJM.ORG JULY 30, 2015

415

The New England Journal of Medicine

Downloaded from [nejm.org](http://nejm.org) at Harvard Library on January 27, 2016. For personal use only. No other uses without permission.  
Copyright © 2015 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved.

- Prospective evaluation of 2,259 adults admitted to 5 hospitals in Chicago and Nashville with pneumonia
- Extensive evaluation for etiology of pneumonia

**Viruses more than twice as common as bacteria!**

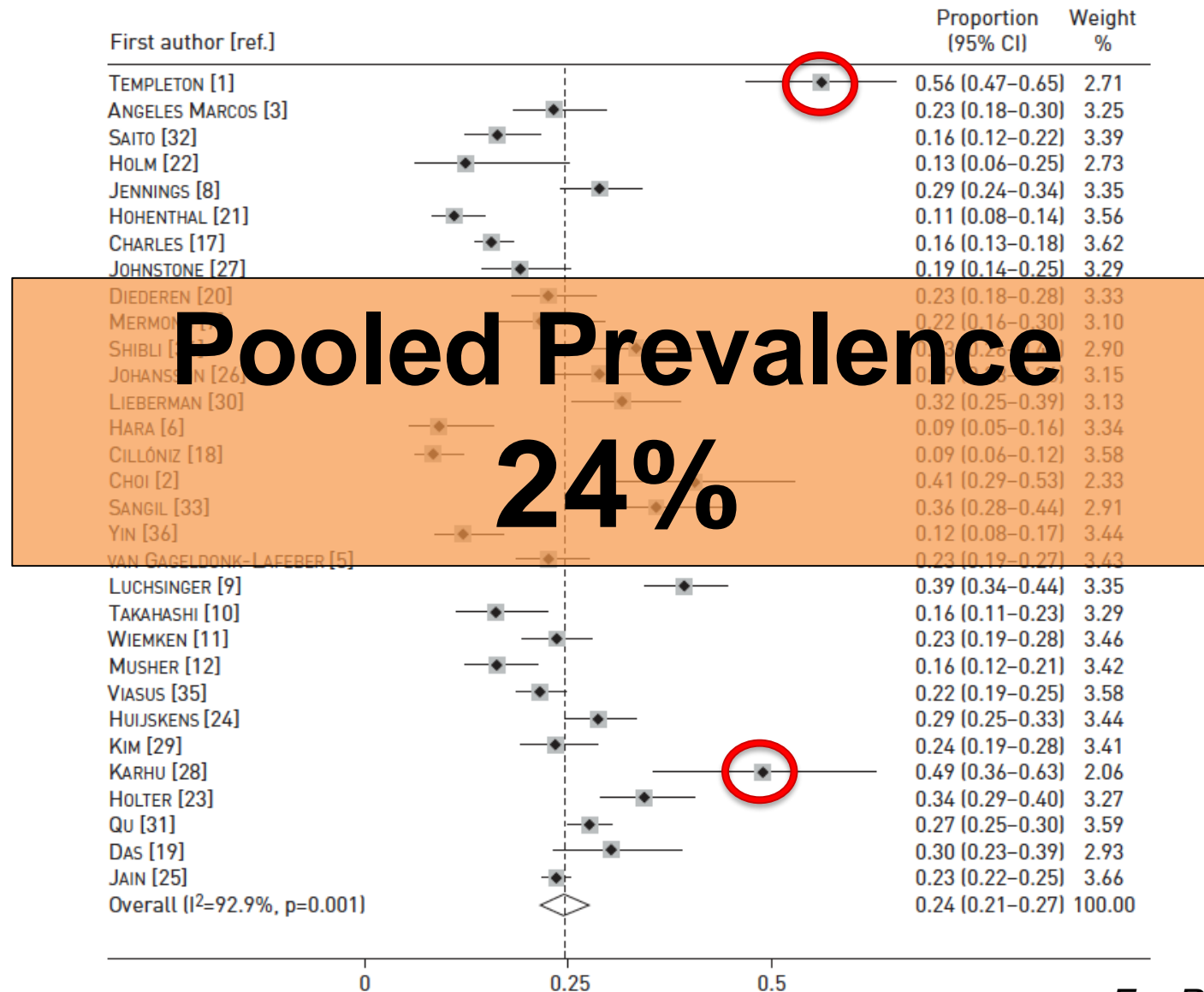
26% of all pneumonias  
60% of pneumonias with an identified pathogen

# Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia

2,259 adults admitted to 5 hospitals in Chicago and Nashville

Rhinovirus	8.6%
Influenza	5.8%
<i>Strep. pneumoniae</i>	5.1%
Metapneumovirus	3.9%
RSV	3.0%
Parainfluenza	3.0%
Coronavirus	2.3%
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	1.9%
<i>Staph. aureus</i>	1.6%
Adenovirus	1.4%
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	1.4%
Enterobacteriaceae	1.4%
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	0.5%
<i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i>	0.4%
Other	2.3%

# Prevalence of Viruses in CAP



# ...and so too in hospital-acquired pneumonia

---

**174 Patients with Non-Ventilator HAP**

*Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St Louis*

viruses in

**22%**

of patients

**99 Patients with HAP Admitted to ICU**

*Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital, Paris*

viruses in

**34%**

of patients

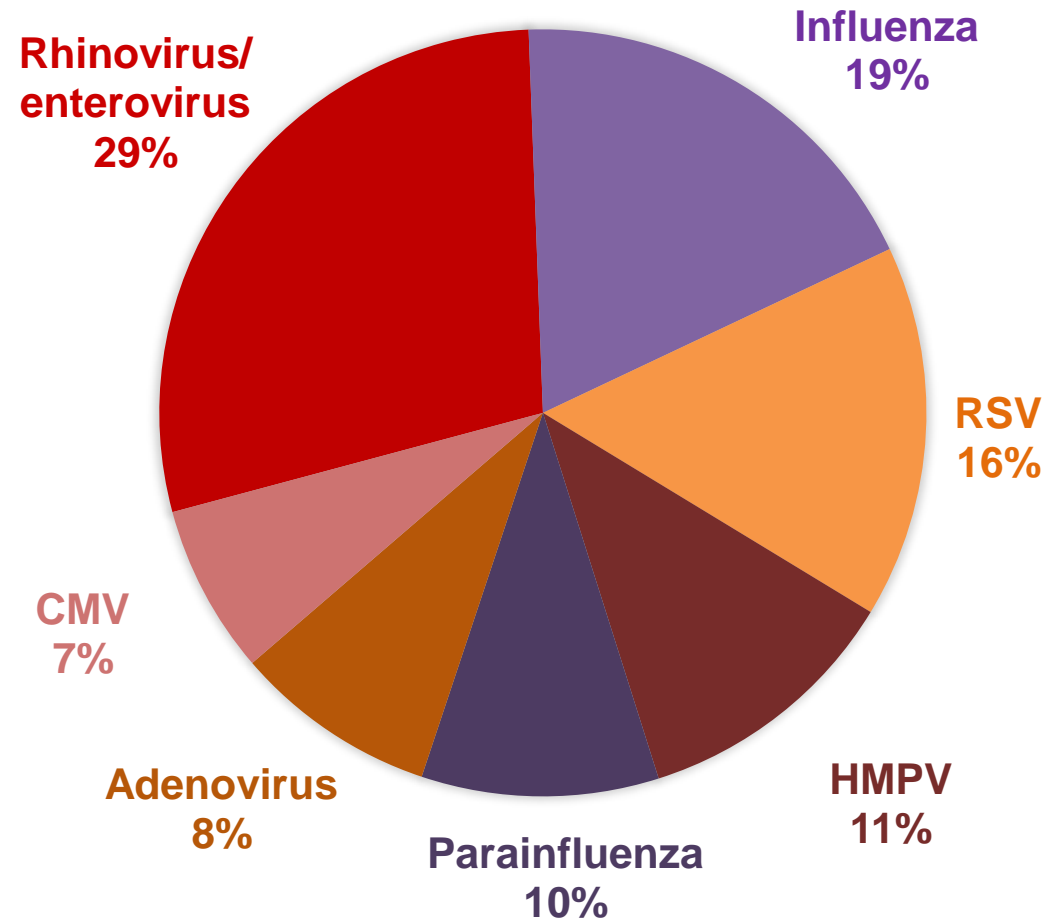
**18%** with virus alone  
**14%** with virus + bacteria



# ...and so too in severe pneumonias

364 patients with pneumonia (CAP/HAP/VAP) requiring mechanical ventilation, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis

viruses in  
**22%**  
of patients

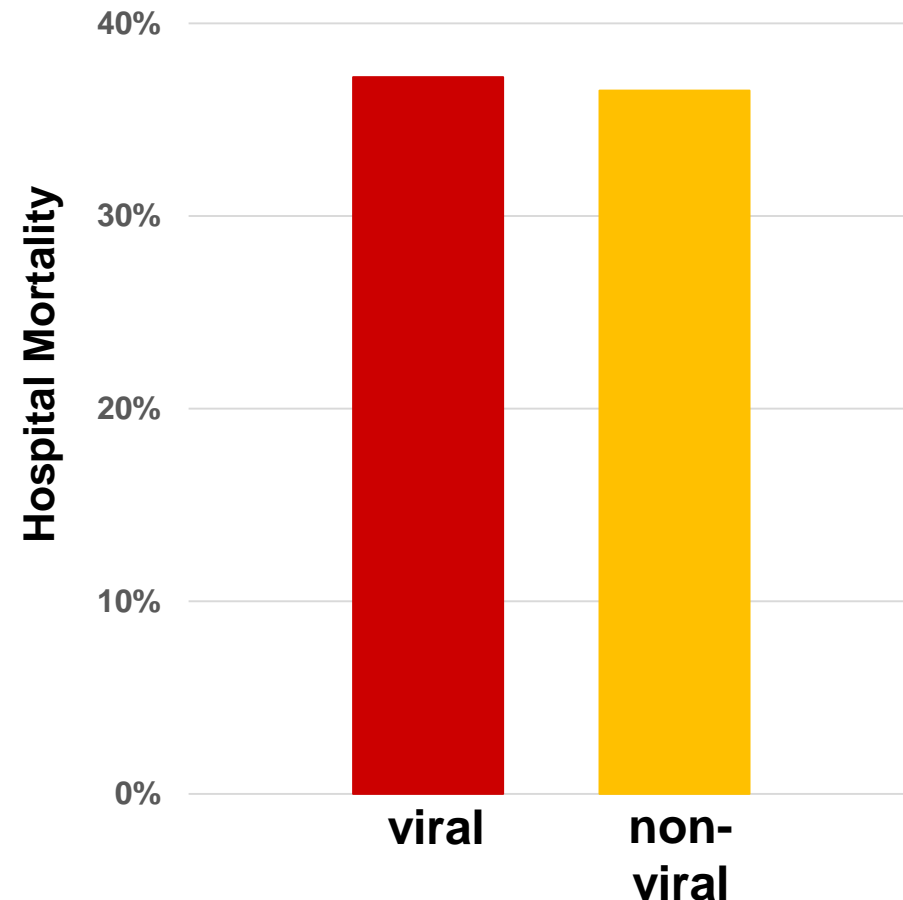


# ...and so too in severe pneumonias

364 patients with pneumonia (CAP/HAP/VAP) requiring mechanical ventilation, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis

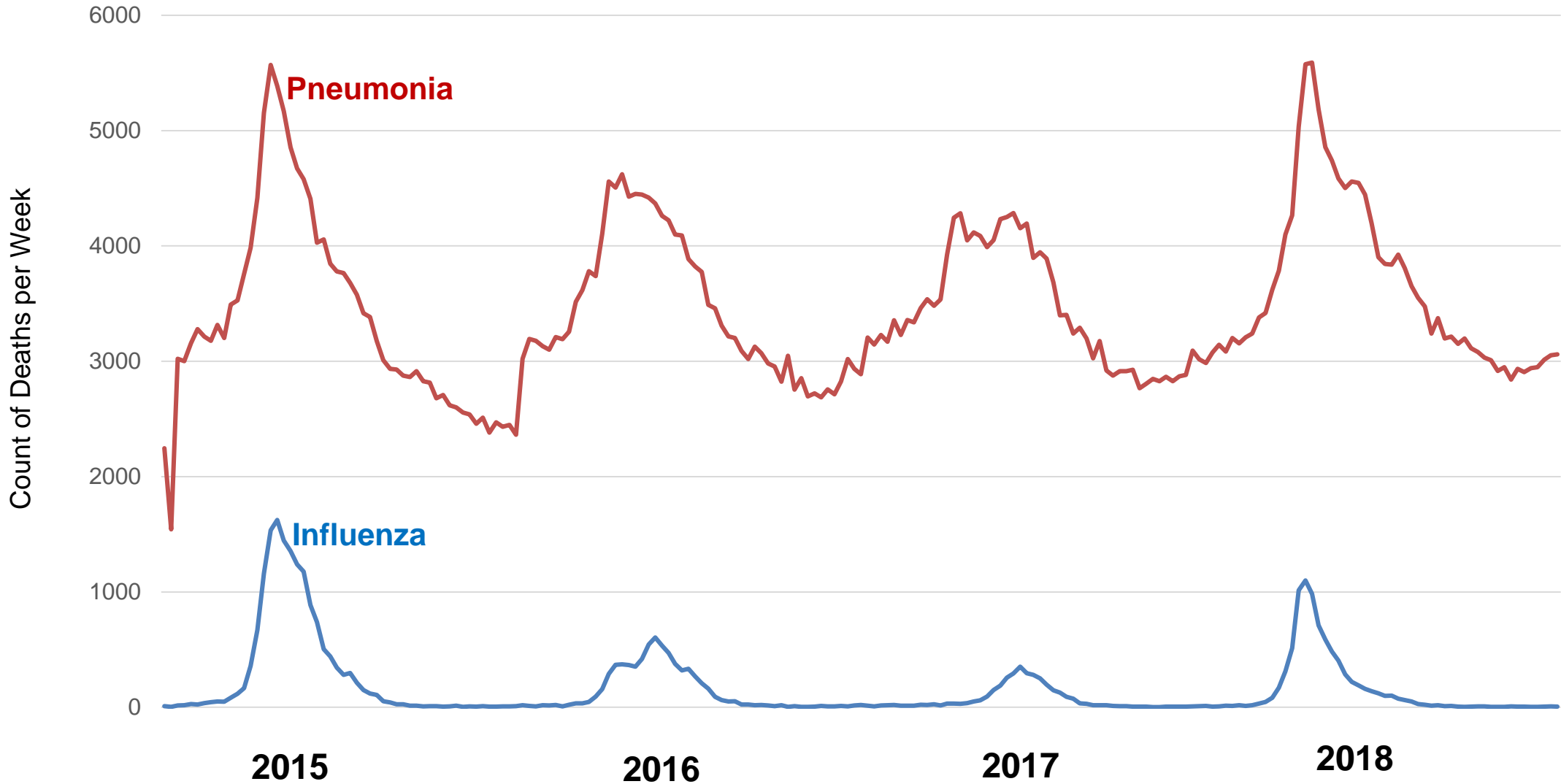
viruses in  
**22%**  
of patients

## **Mortality Rates High and Similar for Viral and Non-Viral Pneumonias**



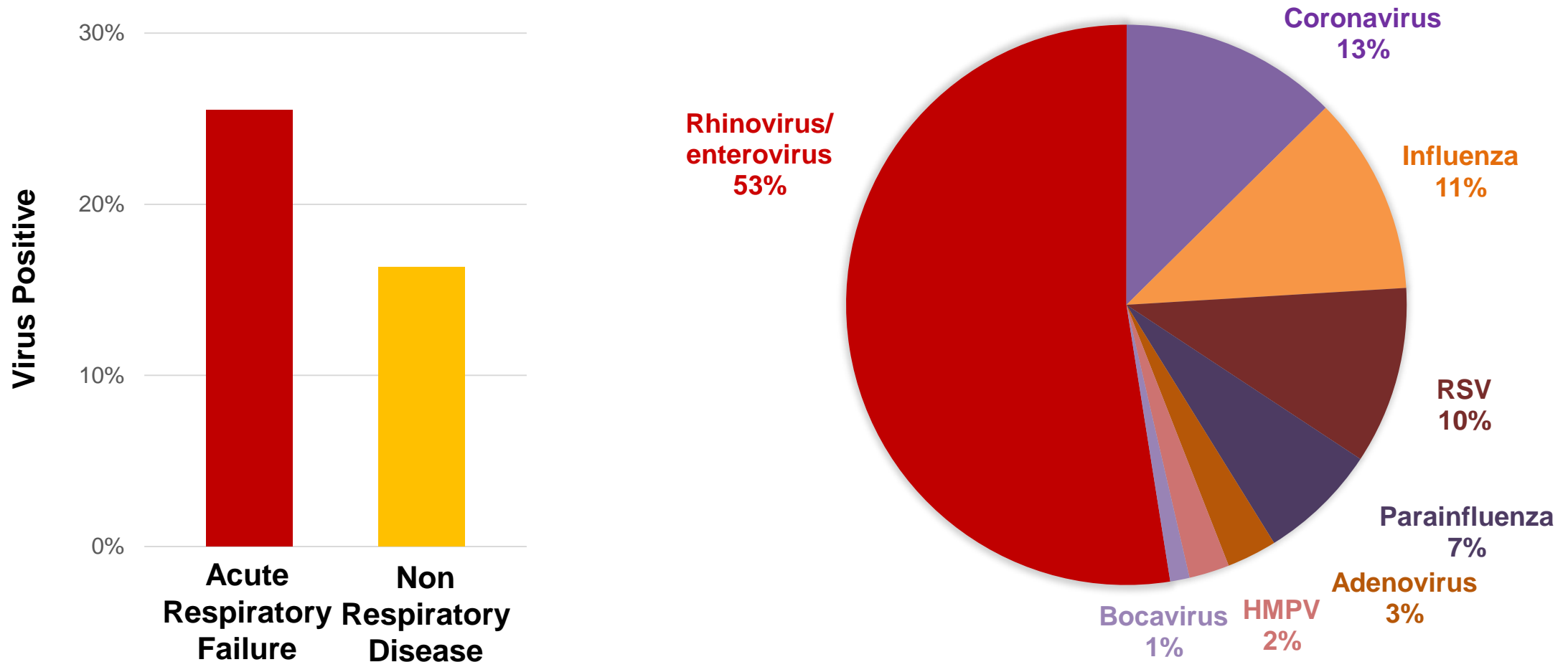
*Chest* 2018; 154:84-90.

# Weekly Pneumonia & Influenza Deaths, USA, 2014-2018



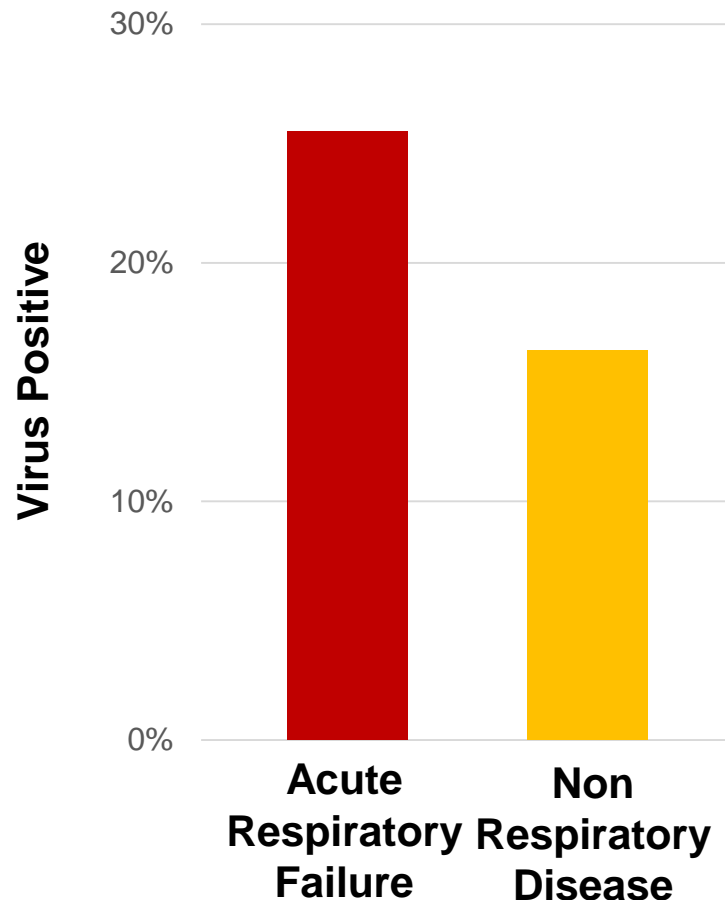
# Significance of Viruses

*Multiplex PCRs on 747 patients with hematologic malignancies admitted to 17 ICUs in France  
60% with acute respiratory failure, 35% on mechanical ventilation*



# Significance of Viruses

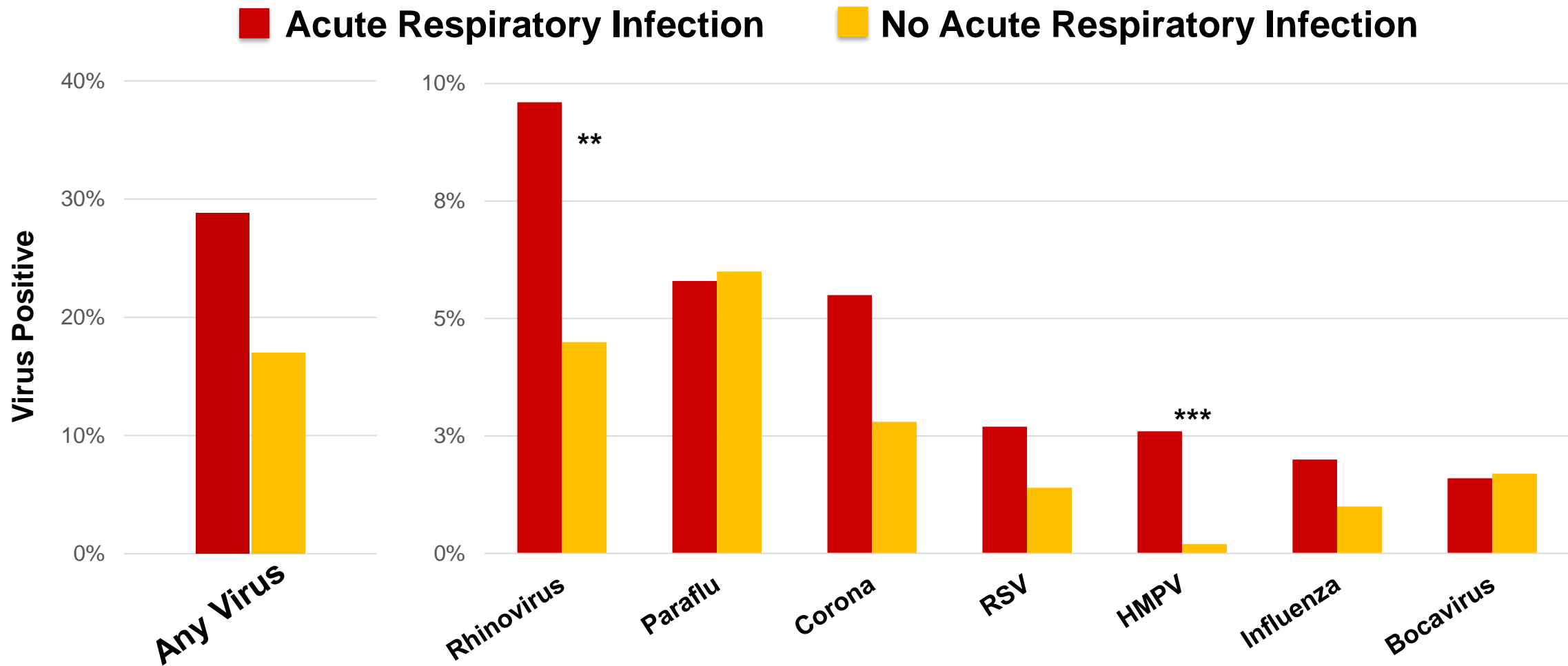
*Multiplex PCRs on 747 patients with hematologic malignancies admitted to 17 ICUs in France  
60% with acute respiratory failure, 35% on mechanical ventilation*



- 14% of patients with positive viral assays did not have any respiratory symptoms
- 27% of patients with positive viral assays and acute respiratory failure had clinically or microbiologically suspected bacterial coinfection
- 10% of patients with positive viral assays were diagnosed with invasive pulmonary aspergillosis (vs 4% of virus negative patients)
- +viral assay associated with adjusted OR for ICU death 2.1 (95% CI 1.2-3.5) in pts w. acute respiratory failure

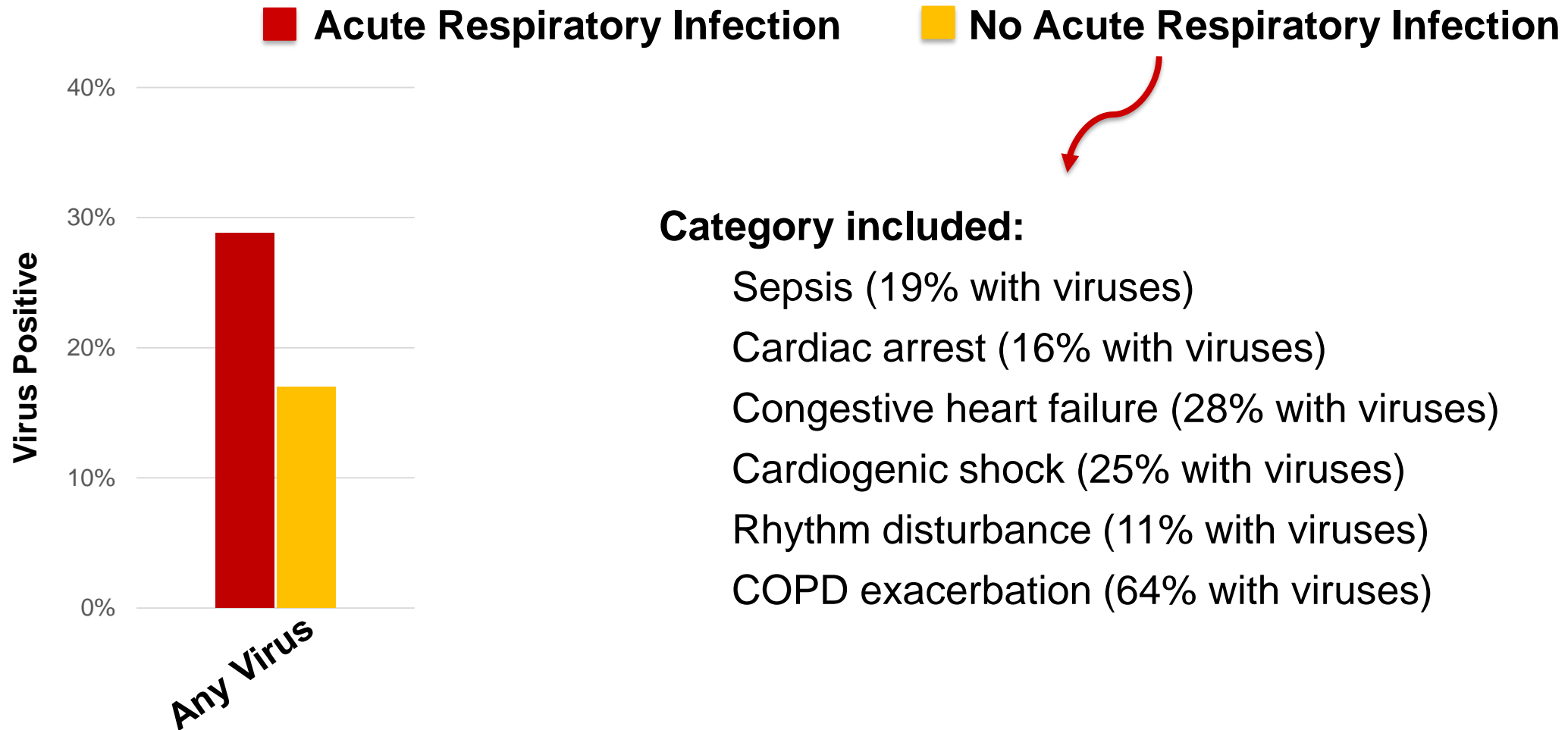
# Significance of Viruses 2

1,407 patients requiring mechanical ventilation admitted to 5 Dutch ICUs. Nasopharyngeal swabs and tracheal aspirates sent for respiratory virus PCRs in all patients, regardless of reason for admission



# Significance of Viruses 2

1,407 patients requiring mechanical ventilation admitted to 5 Dutch ICUs. Nasopharyngeal swabs and tracheal aspirates sent for respiratory virus PCRs in all patients, regardless of reason for admission



# Flu Increases Risk of MI 6-fold!

---

*Self-controlled case series in 364 adults with MI and lab-confirmed flu within 1 year of each other.  
Assessed MI risk in the week following flu vs weekly risk in the preceding and following year*

Count of MIs in the week following lab-confirmed flu: **20**

---

Weekly count of MIs in the year before and after confirmed flu: **3.3**

**Odds Ratio** **6.1**  
for MI with Flu Infection (95% CI 3.9-9.5)

Odds Ratio 3.5 for RSV, 2.8 for other respiratory viruses



# Outline

---

- **Epidemiology & significance**
  - **Diagnosis**
  - **Treatment**
  - **Prevention**
-

# Rapid Viral PCR Panels

## Randomized Controlled Trial

### Routine molecular point-of-care testing for respiratory viruses in adults presenting to hospital with acute respiratory illness (ResPOC): a pragmatic, open-label, randomised controlled trial

Nathan J Brendish, Akhya K Malachuk, Lawrence Armstrong, Rebecca Houghton, Sandra Akkers, Esther Nyimbii, Sean Ewings, Patrick J Elic, Tristan W Clark

#### Summary

**Background** Respiratory virus infection is a common cause of hospitalisation in adults. Rapid point-of-care testing (POCT) for respiratory viruses might improve clinical care by reducing unnecessary antibiotic use, shortening length of hospital stay, improving influenza detection and treatment, and rationalising isolation facility use; however, insufficient evidence exists to support its use over standard clinical care. We aimed to assess the effect of routine POCT on a broad range of clinical outcomes including antibiotic use.

**Methods** In this pragmatic, parallel-group, open-label, randomised controlled trial, we enrolled adults (aged  $\geq 18$  years) within 24 h of presenting to the emergency department or acute medical unit of a large UK hospital with acute respiratory illness or fever higher than  $37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\leq 7$  days duration), or both, over two winter seasons. Patients were randomly assigned (1:1), via an internet-based allocation sequence with random permuted blocks, to have a molecular POC test for respiratory viruses or routine clinical care. The primary outcome was the proportion of patients who received antibiotics while hospitalised (up to 30 days). Secondary outcomes included duration of antibiotics, proportion of patients receiving single doses or brief courses of antibiotics, length of stay, antiviral use, isolation facility use, and safety. Analysis was by modified intention to treat, excluding patients who declined intervention or were withdrawn for protocol violations. This study is registered with ISRCTN, number 90211642, and has been completed.

**Findings** Between Jan 15, 2015, and April 30, 2015, and between Oct 1, 2015, and April 30, 2016, we enrolled 720 patients (362 assigned to POCT and 358 to routine care). Six patients withdrew or had protocol violations. 301 (84%) of 360 patients in the POCT group received antibiotics compared with 294 (83%) of 354 controls (difference 0.6%, 95% CI -4.9 to 6.0;  $p=0.84$ ). Mean duration of antibiotics did not differ between groups (7.2 days [SD 5.1] in the POCT group vs 7.7 days [4.9] in the control group; difference -0.4, 95% CI -1.2 to 0.4;  $p=0.32$ ). 50 (17%) of 301 patients treated with antibiotics in the POCT group received single doses or brief courses of antibiotics ( $<48$  h) compared with 26 (9%) of 294 patients in the control group (difference 7.8%, 95% CI 2.5 to 13.1;  $p=0.0047$ ; number needed to treat=13). Mean length of stay was shorter in the POCT group (5.7 days [SD 6.3]) than in the control group (6.8 days [7.7]; difference -1.1, 95% CI -2.2 to -0.3;  $p=0.0043$ ). Appropriate antiviral treatment of influenza-positive patients was more common in the POCT group (52 [15%] of 357 patients) than in the control group (24 [65%] of 37 patients; difference 26.4%, 95% CI 9.6 to 43.2;  $p=0.0026$ ; number needed to treat=4). We found no differences in adverse outcomes between the groups (77 [21%] of 360 patients in the POCT group vs 88 [25%] of 354 patients in the control group; -3.5%, -9.7 to 2.7;  $p=0.29$ ).

**Interpretation** Routine use of molecular POCT for respiratory viruses did not reduce the proportion of patients treated with antibiotics. However, the primary outcome measure failed to capture differences in antibiotic use because many patients were started on antibiotics before the results of POCT could be made available. Although POCT was not associated with a reduction in the duration of antibiotics overall, more patients in the POCT group received single doses or brief courses of antibiotics than did patients in the control group. POCT was also associated with a reduced length of stay and improved influenza detection and antiviral use, and appeared to be safe.

**Funding** University of Southampton.

#### Introduction

Acute respiratory tract infections are responsible for a huge burden of disease and are the third most common cause of death worldwide.<sup>1,2</sup> Although bacteria were previously considered to be the principal aetiological agents of severe respiratory tract infections, the global importance of respiratory viruses in this group has been increasingly recognised in recent years.<sup>3,4</sup>

Around 700 000 emergency hospital admissions with acute respiratory infection (including exacerbations of chronic lung disease) occurred in England in 2014–15, with approximately 50 000 deaths.<sup>5</sup> Recent, large studies using modern molecular diagnostic tests have shown that respiratory viruses are detectable in around 40–50% of hospitalised adults with acute respiratory illness.<sup>6,7</sup>

- 720 patients with acute respiratory illness, fever  $>37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , or both presenting to an emergency department in England in the winter

- Randomized to rapid respiratory virus PCR panel vs usual care

- Outcomes

- antibiotic starts
- antibiotic days
- length-of-stay

# Rapid Viral PCR Panels

*720 patients randomized to rapid viral PCR panels vs usual care*

---

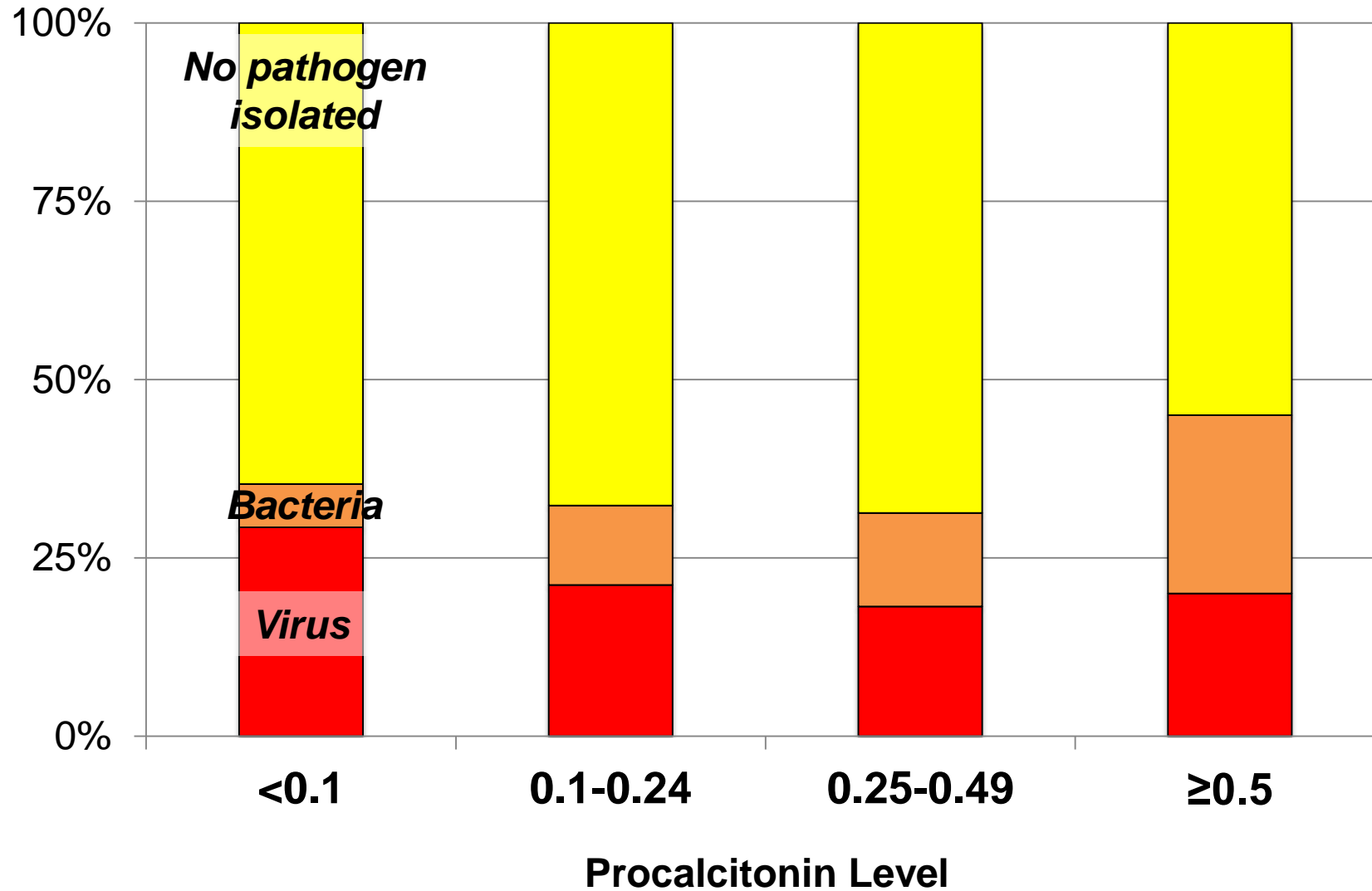
- No difference in antibiotic starts
- No difference in mean duration of antibiotics

But...

- More patients in the viral PCR group received very brief (<48h) courses of antibiotics (17% vs 9%)
- Length-of-stay shorter in the PCR group (mean 5.7 vs 6.8 days)
- Appropriate antiviral treatment for flu was more common in the PCR group (91% vs 65%)

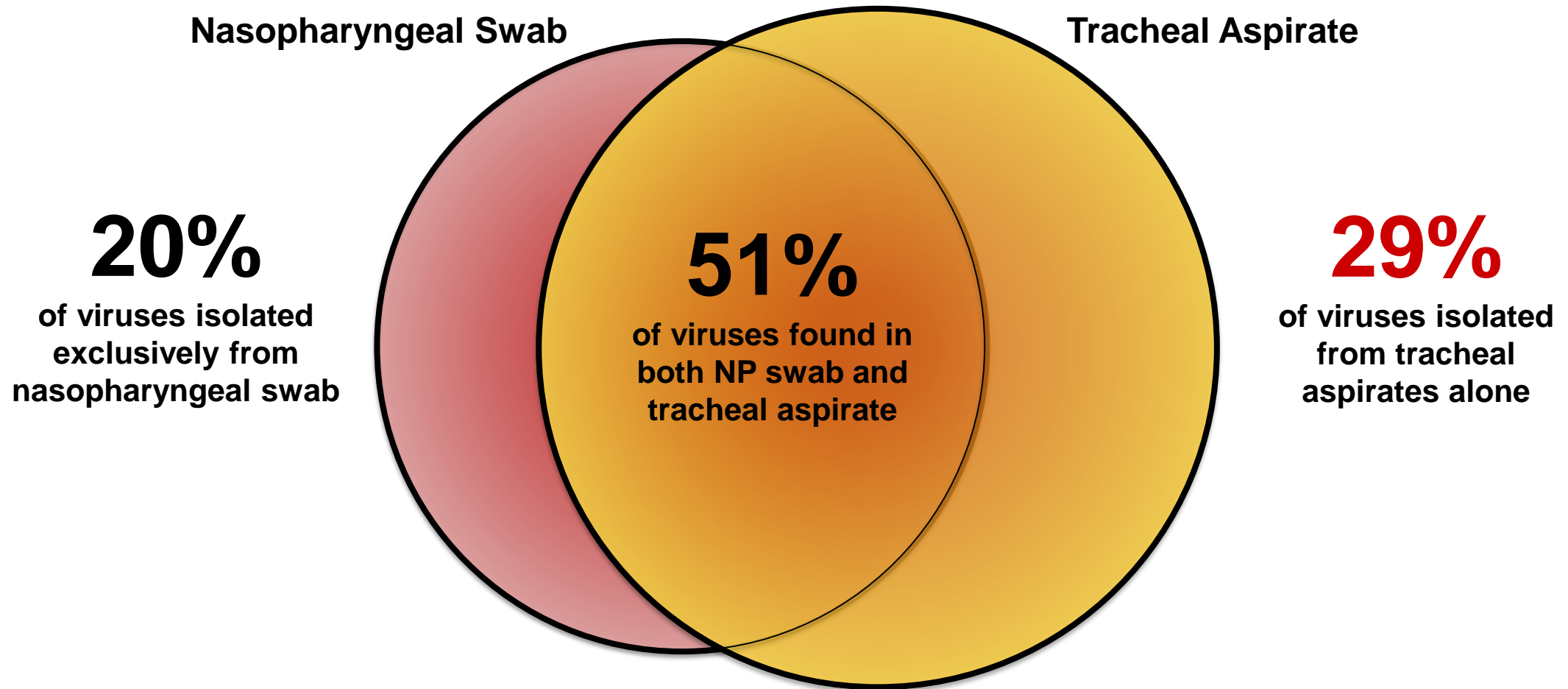
# Procalcitonin and Pneumonia Etiology

1,735 adults admitted to 5 U.S. hospitals with pneumonia



# Lower Tract Specimens Increase Diagnostic Yield

*1,407 patients requiring mechanical ventilation admitted to 5 Dutch ICUs. Nasopharyngeal swabs and tracheal aspirates sent for respiratory virus PCRs in all patients, regardless of reason for admission*



# Outline

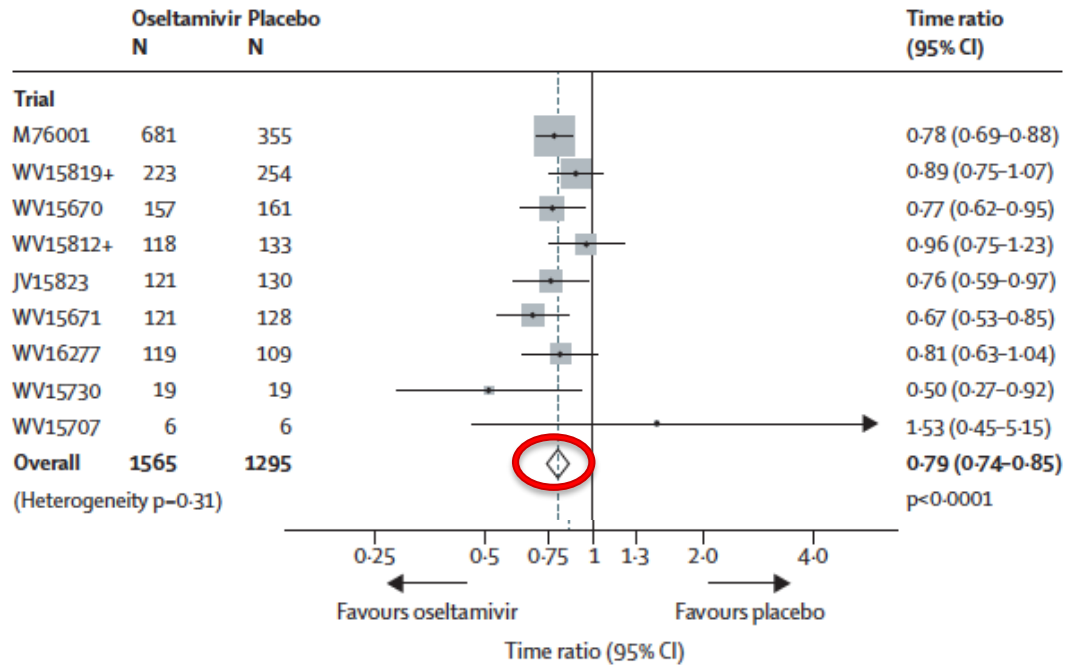
---

- **Epidemiology & significance**
  - **Diagnosis**
  - **Treatment**
  - **Prevention**
-

# Oseltamivir in Outpatients

## Time to Resolution of Symptoms

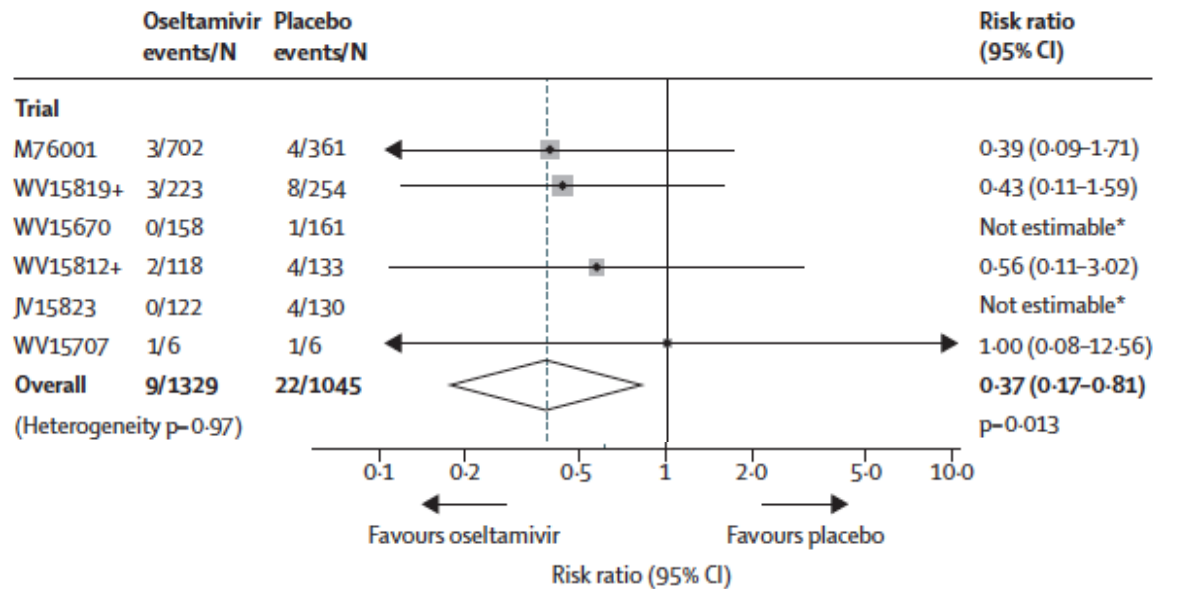
Intention-to-treat infected population



**Symptom resolution  
about 25 hours sooner  
with oseltamivir**

## Hospital Admissions

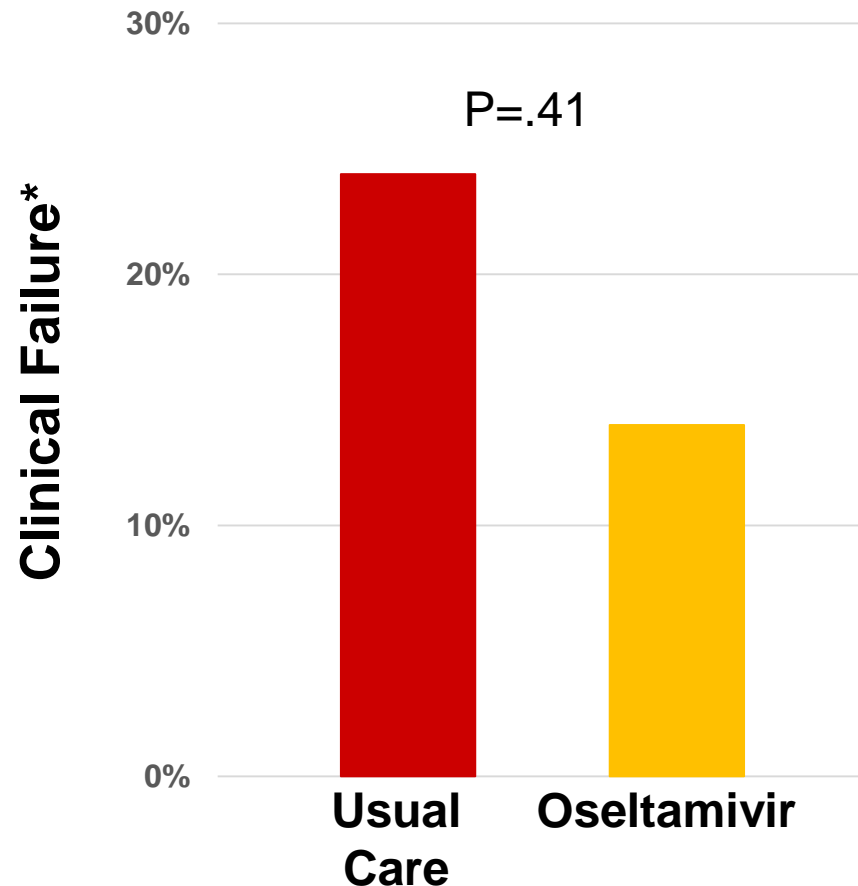
Admitted to hospital, intention-to-treat infected population



**Hospital admissions  
~60% less common with  
oseltamivir**

# Oseltamivir in Hospitalized Patients

Randomized trial of usual care vs oseltamivir in 74 patients with confirmed influenza.  
Median 5 days of symptoms before admission to hospital.



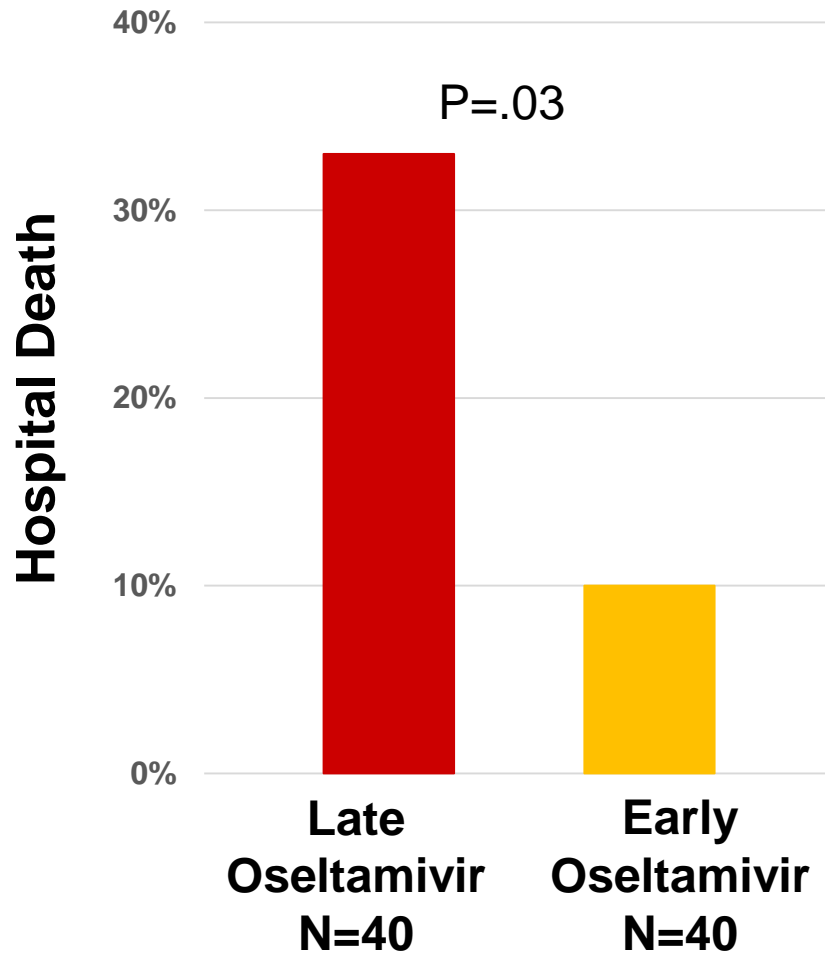
***“Trend” towards less clinical failure with oseltamivir but study grossly underpowered (n=74)!***

\*No improvement by day 7, transfer to ICU, death or rehospitalization within 30 days.



# Oseltamivir in ICU Patients

*Propensity matched analysis of 40 ICU patients treated for influenza with oseltamivir within 48 hours of admission vs 40 patients treated with oseltamivir >48 hours after admission*



***Lower mortality rate with early oseltamivir but possible residual confounding***

# Peramivir IV vs Oseltamivir PO

---

*Peramivir 600mg IV x 1 vs oseltamivir 75mg PO bid x 5d*

**Time to Resolution of Symptoms  
in Outpatients  
Randomized Trial, N=727**

**81 vs 82  
hours**

**28-day Mortality  
In ICU Patients  
Retrospective Cohort Study, N=60**

**35% vs 35%**

# Outline

---

- **Epidemiology & significance**
  - **Diagnosis**
  - **Treatment**
  - **Prevention**
-

# Preventing Nosocomial Respiratory Virus Infections

---

- **If 20-30% of pneumonias are due to viruses what more could we be doing to prevent transmission?**
  - Active patient screening on admission
  - Active visitor screening & exclusion
  - Daily patient screening for flu-like symptoms
  - Broader and more active viral testing of symptomatic patients
  - Contact + Droplet precautions for **all** patients with suspected or confirmed viral infections
  - Vaccinate all healthcare workers against flu
  - Eye protection for healthcare workers?

***Many single center, before-after studies have described success aborting outbreaks or reducing respiratory virus infection rates using some or all of these options.***

---

# Impact of Active Surveillance for Influenza in Hospitalized Patients

*Descriptive study of active influenza screening of all patients on admission and daily thereafter during flu season, North York General Hospital, 2012-2015*

## 10% of hospitalized patients tested for flu

(661 lab-confirmed cases)

**85%**  
detected  
on admission

**15%**  
detected  
after admission

- Many with vague symptoms
- Consider viruses in patients with exacerbations of chronic cardiac & pulmonary disease

- 7% of flu cases nosocomial!
- Higher secondary attack rate (patients are most infectious early in the course of illness)

**55%**  
**community-onset**  
with delayed detection

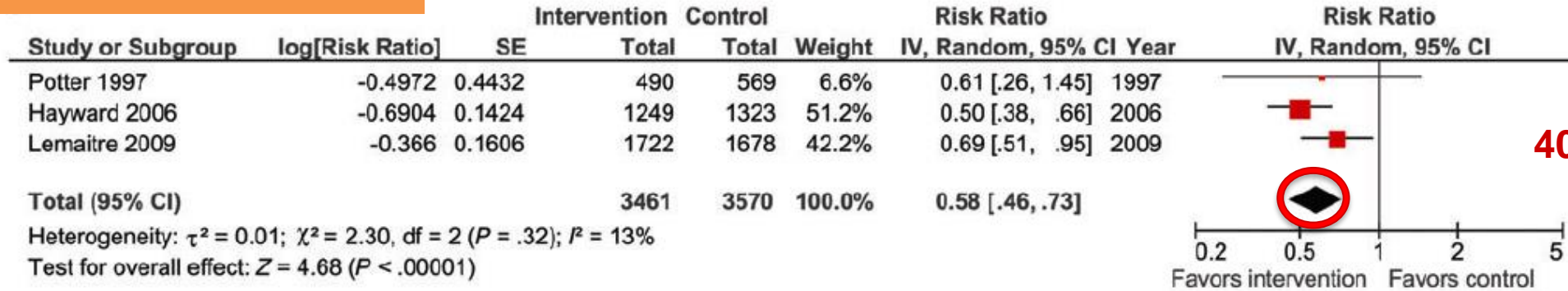
86 roommates exposed  
21 tested  
**0 secondary cases**

**45%**  
**nosocomial onset**

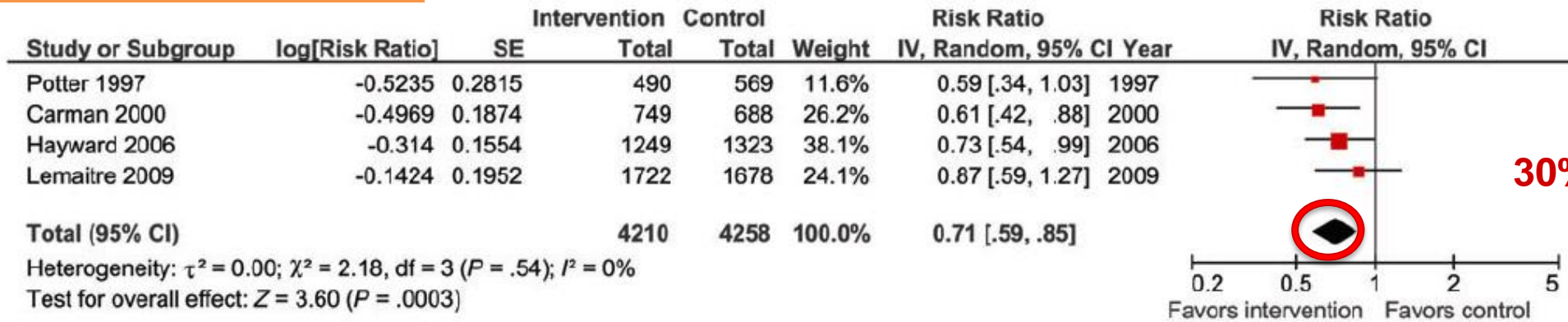
57 roommates exposed  
16 tested  
**2 secondary cases**

# Impact of Vaccinating Health Care Workers on **Patient** Outcomes

## Influenza-like Illness



## All cause mortality



# Summary

---

- Viruses are common in CAP and HAP, including severe cases requiring ICU admission
    - Often also present in patients without overt respiratory disease
  - Prognosis for viral pneumonia similar to bacterial pneumonia
  - Test for viruses. Think beyond flu alone.
    - Positive results can inform prognosis and treatment (oseltamivir), trigger infection control measures, and allay diagnostic uncertainty
  - Bacterial coinfection is common so keep an open mind
  - Negative procalcitonin suggestive but not definitive
  - Protect the critically ill from viral infections in the hospital
-

---

**Thank You!**

**[mklompas@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:mklompas@bwh.harvard.edu)**

---