

Advancing Health Economics: Incorporating AMR Impact into Pneumococcal Vaccine Assessment

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BACKGROUND

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a critical global health issue, causing 4.95 million deaths annually and projected to increase healthcare costs by US\$ 1 trillion by 2050.^{1,2}
- Vaccination is a key strategy against AMR, reducing infection rates, antibiotic use, and the emergence of resistant strains.³⁻⁶
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCVs), such as PCV7 and PCV13, have significantly reduced antibiotic-resistant pneumococcal infections,⁷⁻¹² while PCV15 and PCV20 are expected to provide further reductions.
- Cost-effectiveness analyses¹³⁻²⁰ show that PCVs reduce disease incidence, mortality, and healthcare costs, but often overlook the full socioeconomic benefits of vaccination.

OBJECTIVE

- This study aimed to develop a conceptual framework for modeling and quantifying the effects of vaccination on AMR, utilizing PCVs as an illustrative example.

METHODS

Model Structure

- A simplified framework was used due to lack of data required to fully parameterize the proposed pathways. This framework leveraged all available PCV data.
- A multi-cohort, population-based decision-analytic Markov model¹⁷ was used to compare routine vaccination with PCV20 against PCV13 and PCV15.
- The model assumed a 3+1 dosing schedule for PCV20 and considered a 25-year time period.
- The model assumptions are described in Rozenbaum et al.¹⁷

Model Inputs

Antibiotic Prescriptions

- 100% of individuals with invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) and hospitalized pneumonia receive antibiotics.
- The antibiotic prescription rates for non-hospitalized pneumonia and otitis media (OM) were 78% and 85% for children, respectively.²¹
- Prescription rates were assumed to remain constant over the time horizon.

Antibiotic Resistance

- The proportion of antibiotic-resistant *S. pneumoniae* cases was based on data from 2018–2021²² (Table 1).
- Resistance rates were assumed to remain constant.

Table 1. Proportion of Cases Resistant to Antibiotics by Age and Disease Outcome

Age	IPD	Non-invasive Hospitalized Pneumonia	Non-hospitalized Pneumonia	Complex OM	Simple OM
All Ages	38%	56%	56%	30%	30%
<18 Years	39%	49%	49%	30%	30%
≥18 Years	38%	57%	57%	30%	30%

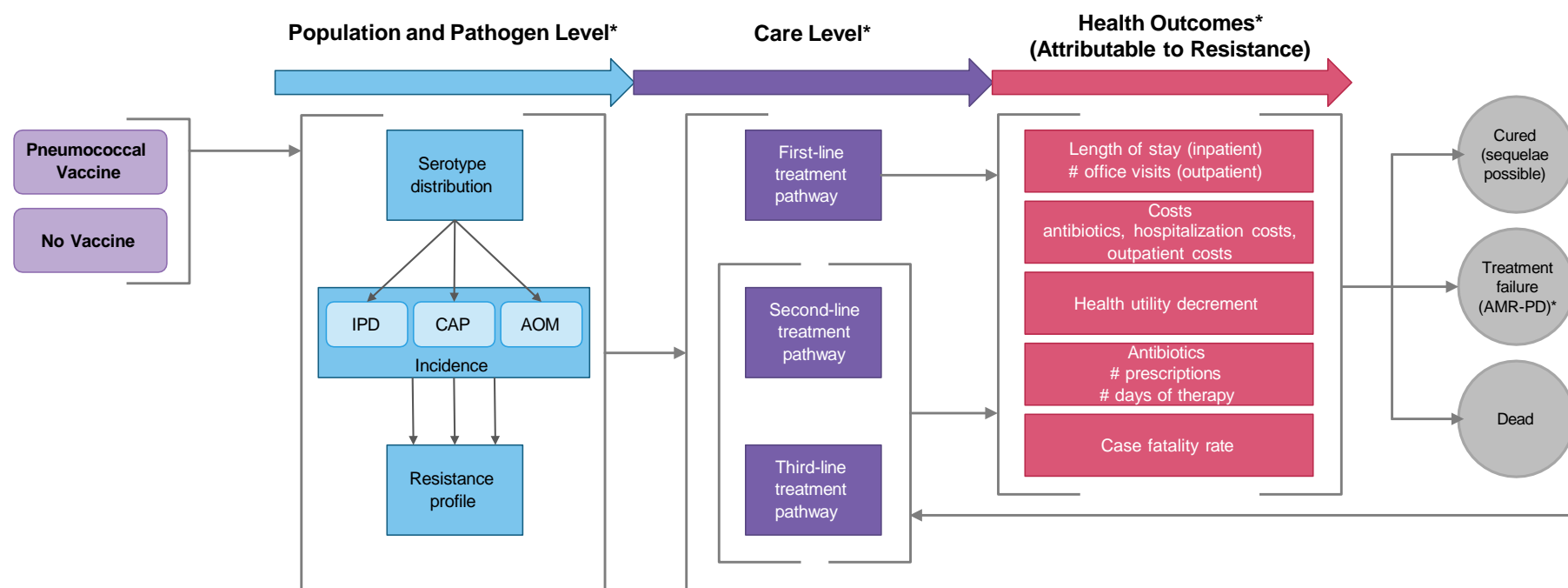
IPD = invasive pneumococcal disease; OM = otitis media

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- The conceptual framework includes three pathways (Figure 1):

- Population and pathogen:** disease epidemiology (i.e., serotype distribution, disease incidence, and resistance profiles)
- Care pathway:** clinical management (i.e., antibiotic access, diagnostic and treatment protocols, and the impact of treatment failures due to resistance)
- Health outcomes:** AMR outcomes (i.e., hospital stays, costs, mortality rates, additional antibiotic prescriptions, and the spread of resistant strains)

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework



*All data points can be age and disease specific
OM = otitis media; CAP = community-acquired pneumonia; IPD = invasive pneumococcal disease; SoC = standard of care

RESULTS (cont.)

- Over 25 years, PCV20 could prevent 14 million additional antibiotic-resistant infections compared to PCV13 and 7.2 million compared to PCV15 (Table 2; Figure 2).
- PCV20 could prevent 23.5 million antibiotic prescriptions compared to PCV13 and 12 million compared to PCV15 (Table 2).
 - Of the total antibiotic prescriptions prevented compared to PCV13, 0.7% were for IPD, 5.6% for hospitalized pneumonia, 23.9% for non-hospitalized pneumonia, and 69.7% for OM.
 - Compared to PCV20, 0.7% were for IPD, 5.9% for hospitalized pneumonia, 25.8% for non-hospitalized pneumonia, and 67.6% for OM.
- Most averted antibiotic-resistant infections and antibiotic prescriptions were due to prevented OM cases among those aged 0–17 years.

Table 2. Incremental Cases Averted: PCV20 versus PCV13 and PCV15

	Cases		Antibiotic-resistant cases		Antibiotic prescriptions	
	PCV13	PCV15	PCV13	PCV15	PCV13	PCV15
IPD	-194,750	-102,579	-74,189	-39,071	-194,750	-102,579
Non-invasive hospitalized pneumonia	-1,573,765	-846,116	-862,579	-465,208	-1,573,765	-846,116
Non-hospitalized pneumonia	-6,675,939	-3,703,531	-3,568,680	-1,985,932	-5,207,233	-2,888,754
Complex OM	-19,451,363	-9,705,505	-9,544,668	-4,755,697	-16,533,659	-8,249,679
Total	-27,895,818	-14,357,730	-14,050,115	-7,245,908	-23,509,406	-12,087,128

IPD = invasive pneumococcal disease; OM = otitis media; PCV = pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

Figure 2. Predicted Antibiotic-resistant Cases



IPD = invasive pneumococcal disease; OM = otitis media; PCV = pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

CONCLUSION

- The proposed conceptual framework includes critical AMR parameters for vaccine evaluation but highlights data gaps.
- The pragmatic modeling approach shows that PCV infant immunization can reduce antibiotic prescriptions and resistance.
 - These findings support including AMR considerations in cost-effectiveness models.

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