Can we Reduce the Cost of Treatment of Acute Pneumonia?

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Letter to Editor

If you have serious medical problems, threatening the patient’s life, the costs of treatment are retreating to the sidelines. In these moments all thoughts and aspirations aim to eliminate the problem. Psychological shock of patients with complicated forms of acute pneumonia (AP) can hardly be accurately evaluated and compensated by a monetary amount. Psychological and moral experiences of relatives of the patient and the attending medical staff also cannot be represented in the form of financial calculations. All these factors can only serve as an additional incentive for finding a solution of the problem. However, material support of the treatment process can be counted, from the economic point of view, sufficiently detailed and precise.

Today, treatment of AP in most patients is relatively inexpensive. We are talking about patients, which manages to cure without hospitalization. The cost of treatment in this group actually is determined by the price of the course of antibiotic therapy. If such starting treatment is not sufficiently effective, the treatment cost may increase due to elongation treatment or by replacing the initial drug to a stronger and generally more expensive. But in this case the treatment price increases slightly.

The dramatic rise in the price of the treatment of AP occurs if necessary hospitalization of the patient high percentage of complications among hospitalized patients not only lengthens the duration of treatment, but requires additional methods, including surgical benefits. New conditions require significant additional charges. These costs include the cost of the stay in the clinic, the salaries of additional medical personnel, the use of necessary equipment and tools, etc.

Is it ethical to put in such a situation, the question about reducing the cost of treatment of AP? I am deeply convinced that posing such a question and the answer is absolutely essential today for the sake of future patients. It is well known that the best way to deal with the complications of any disease is their prevention. At the same time, modern conventional approaches to the treatment of AP do not give any hope for progress in this direction.

Every doctor knows about the unique role of the lungs in the body, but (!), while the treatment of AP would be routinely repeated the principles of assistance in other inflammatory diseases, it is necessary to leave the thought of the possibility to implement preventive direction. On the other hand, don't expect a quick correction of this section health care. The time will pass before a new perspective on the nature of AP must be understood and adopted as the basic doctrine of the disease. It should be understood that the concepts of the mechanism of acute pneumonia and emerging at the same violations in the body are the key to their purposeful elimination. This approach to treatment has been tested by the author of these lines and it is a real opportunity to prevent complications. This part of the completed work can be used (with permission of the author) as a theoretical platform in resolving standing problem. This proposal will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in the cost of AP treatment due to improved results [1-4].

References

2. (2015) Pediatric pleural emphysema has increased substantially over the past 20 years and reasons for this rise remain not fully explained. Pediatric Pulmonology 50: 721-726.