

**PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA: CLINICAL AND LABORATORY  
DIAGNOSTIC ALGORITHM**

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**ПНЕВМОЦИСТНАЯ ПНЕВМОНИЯ: КЛИНИКО-ЛАБОРАТОРНЫЙ  
ДИАГНОСТИЧЕСКИЙ АЛГОРИТМ**

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**Keywords:** pneumocystosis, clinical diagnostics, laboratory diagnostics

**References.** Pneumocystosis is one of the most common infections in the world and the importance of this problem has been increasing in recent years. Numerous studies on pneumocystic infection in patients with various pathologies indicate that pneumocystosis is widespread everywhere.

In the domestic literature, information about *P. carinii* is disproportionately small compared to the huge social danger of pneumocystis infection. The issues of the clinic, diagnosis and treatment of pneumocystosis in the Republic of Uzbekistan have not been studied at all. Taking into account the fact that pneumocystic infection is little known to practical doctors in our country, and in many hospitals, the study of pneumocystosis is not only not included in the number of mandatory tests, but is not carried out at all, the diagnosis of this disease becomes extremely important.

**Method and research.** Given that the clinical manifestations of pneumocystis pneumonia are not very specific, and a detailed clinical and radiological picture appears much later from the onset of the disease (especially with AIDS), early etiological diagnosis is of great importance, as it allows timely initiation of appropriate treatment. Diagnosis of pneumocystis pneumonia is based on clinical and laboratory data. A number of circumstances make it very difficult to diagnose pneumocystosis [1,2]: an erased clinical picture in the presence of a carrier or chronic infection; absence of pathognomonic symptoms; strict tropism of the pathogen to the lung tissue and, as a

result, the absence of the parasite in various biological fluids, except for bronchial secretions; the difficulty of obtaining material for research. Clinical diagnostics, which includes the study and analysis of the history of the disease and the life of the patient, as well as an objective examination, does little to verify this pathology. Laboratory diagnosis of pneumocystosis consists of the results of serological and parasitological studies. The main steps in establishing the diagnosis of pneumocystis pneumonia are:

- x-ray examination,
- scanning with gallium-67,
- induced sputum testing for P.
- bronchoalveolar lavage,
- serological methods [1,2,8].

Various criteria and algorithms (Fig.) have been developed for examining patients in order to diagnose pneumocystis pneumonia [3]. So, in the Central Hospital of Samarkand, a patient is examined for the presence of pneumocystis in the following cases: HIV infection (or suspicion of it) or any other pronounced immunodeficiency state; clinical respiratory symptoms; at least one of the evidence of lung damage - radiographic data, a decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion, or a change in the accumulation of gallium citrate in the lungs - 67.

Various clinical material can be used to detect *P. carinii*:

- loose sputum,
- induced sputum,
- bronchoalveolar lavage fluid
- tracheal aspirate,
- transbronchial biopsy,

Many indirect diagnostic tests and algorithms have been developed, for example, determining the level of lactate dehydrogenase activity, pO<sub>2</sub> changes, various scanning methods, functional tests. However, for an accurate diagnosis, visualization of the microorganism in the clinical material is necessary [4]. It is not enough to obtain biological material; it is also necessary to confirm or refute the presence of *P. carinii* in it. Traditionally, impregnation with methenamine-silver nitrate according to Gomory or silver according to Grocott is used to detect pneumocysts. Recently, for the identification of pneumocysts, toluidine blue staining, Gram and Schiff stains, the Romanovsky-Giemsa method, and crystal violet staining according to M.V. Lavdovskaya, stained with acridine orange [1–3].

Each individual method has certain advantages and disadvantages, its sensitivity varies greatly depending on the type of clinical material and the method of its pre-treatment. Therefore, optimal results can be obtained with the parallel use of several staining methods, which makes it possible to identify the causative agent of pneumocystosis in almost 100% of patients. In connection with the need to use a non-

invasive, and therefore less traumatic method for establishing pneumocystis infection, immunological methods have become especially widely used in recent years. A new diagnostic test system PneumocystoTest has been developed, which can be used to determine anti-pneumocystic IgM and IgG. Antigens are prepared from pneumocystis isolated from the lungs of minipigs infected with *P. carinii* [1,2].

With the help of a new diagnostic test system, we conducted a serological examination of 21 sick children with various diagnoses who were treated in the intensive care unit of the Samarkand Children's Center. We had the opportunity to study the clinical histories of hospitalized children and revealed the relationship between detected serological cases of pneumocystis infection (presence of anti-pneumocystic IgM) and clinical manifestations in seropositive individuals. In other words, we stated the reliability of the new test system, which passed the test of retrospective clinical analysis. Research in this direction is ongoing.

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