IN A NUTSHELL

The knowledge platform for general practitioners

CURB-65 and CRB-65 Score

CURB-65 or CRB-65 is an acronym used to estimate the severity of community-acquired pneumonia. The parameters considered are Confusion, Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN, optional), Respiratory rate, Blood pressure, and Age (? 65 years). The CRB-65 score omits BUN, but the sensitivity is still comparable to that of the CURB-65 score.

Confusion
○ No ○ Yes (+1)
Elevated blood urea nitrogen (BUN)
BUN > 7 mmol/l or > 19 mg/dl
○ Unknown ○ No ○ Yes (+1)
Tachypnea
Respiratory rate ? 30/min
○ No ○ Yes (+1)
Hypotension
Blood pressure systolic < 90 mmHg or diastolic ? 60 mmHg
○ No ○ Yes (+1)
Age ? 65 years
○ No ○ Yes (+1)

Score:

30-day mortality:

Interpretation

CURB-65 score	30-day mortality	Recommendation
0	0.6 %	Outpatient treatment possible
1	2.7 %	
2	6.8 %	Admission recommended
3	14 %	Admission with intensive medical care recommended
4-5	27.8 %	

CRB-65 Score	30-day mortality	Recommendation

CRB-65 Score	30-day mortality	Recommendation
0	0.9 %	Outpatient treatment possible
1	5.2 %	Admission recommended
2	12 %	
3-4	31.2 %	Admission with intensive medical care recommended

References

1. Lim WS, van der Eerden MM, Laing R et al. Defining community acquired pneumonia severity on presentation to hospital: an international derivation and validation study. Thorax 2003; 58: 377-382
2. Aujesky D, Auble TE, Yealy DM et al. Prospective comparison of three validated prediction rules for prognosis in community-acquired pneumonia. Am J Med 2005; 118: 384-392