



THIS IS WHY

with *Dr. Busti*

A 54-year-old male comes to the emergency department with a 2-day history of fever, chills, productive cough with yellow sputum, shortness of breath, and intermittent confusion. His past medical history includes HFrEF, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes. He has no recent hospitalizations or antibiotic use.

On exam, his temperature is 39.9°C (103.8°F), blood pressure 128/76 mmHg, pulse 102/min, respiratory rate 24/min, and oxygen saturation 90% on room air and at rest. Crackles are heard over the right lower lung field.

Chest X-ray shows a right lower lobe consolidation.

Which of the following is the most appropriate empiric treatment for this patient?

- A. Azithromycin monotherapy
- B. Ceftriaxone plus azithromycin
- C. Piperacillin-tazobactam plus vancomycin
- D. Levofloxacin monotherapy
- E. Amoxicillin alone