**Supplemental Digital Content 1. Bacterial detection by culture and PCR methodology:**

**Comparison of species-specific PCR, 16S rRNA PCR and culture for 25 patients**

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| **Bacteria** | **Species-specific PCR** | **16S rRNA PCR** | **Pleural fluid culture** | **Blood culture** |
| *Streptococcus pneumoniae* | 14 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| *Staphylococcus aureus*a | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| *Streptococcus pyogenes* | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Streptococcus* speciesb | 5 | 0 | 2c | 0 |
| *Haemophilus influenzae*d | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | Not Done | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Polymicrobiale | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Any Pathogen** | 22 (88%) | 3 (12%) | 5 (20%) | 1 (4%) |

a 2 MSSA/1 MRSA by species-specific PCR, 1 MRSA by culture of pleural fluid

bStreptococcal species included for primer design of the *“Streptococcus* species” assay were: *S. pneumoniae, S. parasanguinis, S. anginosus, S. salivarius, S. pyogenes, S. uberis, S. mitis, S. sanguis, S. mutans, S. oralis, S. equinis, S. gordonii, S. gallolyticus*

c both *S. intermedius* (*S. milleri* group)

d non-typeable

e *S. pneumoniae* and *S. aureus* (n=1); *S. pneumoniae* and Streptococcus species (n=1)