Fig 1. Study flow diagram.

539 Assessed for eligibility

227 Excluded

51 Declined participation

39 Died before day 5

57 Admitted to Intensive Care Unit before day 5

5 Chest tube

75 Prior antibiotic treatment

312 Randomized

162 Randomized to Intervention group

162 Included in ITT analysis

150 Randomized to Control group

150 Included in ITT analysis

13 Protocol violation

1 Left hospital voluntarily

6 Extra antibiotic after discharge without clinical worsening

6 Lack of collaboration from physicians during hospitalization

3 Lost to follow-up

Lost to follow-up

146 Included in PP analysis

16 Excluded from analysis

137 Included in PP analysis

13 Excluded from analysis

65 Biomarkers analysis

81 Biomarkers analysis