

# **Common Infections Core Curriculum Module Summary**

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## **PHARYNGITIS**

Modified Centor Score — Estimates likelihood of streptococcal pharyngitis and need for antibiotics in acute pharyngitis

1 point each: fever >38°C, tender anterior cervical lymphadenopathy, tonsillar exudate / swelling, absence of cough Some physicians also use age criteria: 3-14 years add 1 point, 15-44 years add 0 points, >45 years subtract 1 point

→ Score 0-1: Ø swab, Ø treatment, Score 2-3: swab & Tx if swab (+), Score 4: swab & Tx

## **Differentiating Strep Throat vs. Mononucleosis**

**Strep Throat** + fatigue, (-) monospot, + nodes

Mononucleosis

atypical lymphocytosis, ++ fatigue, ± hepatomegaly, ± liver enzymes, + monospot (\*), ++ nodes, ± splenomegaly

(\*) Note that (+) monospot in mononucleosis may be delayed 1-2 weeks

**Management** (For dosing & 3<sup>rd</sup> line drugs refer to Common Infections E-Module)

Adult 1<sup>st</sup> line: Penicillin V, 2<sup>nd</sup> line: Erythromycin

Children 1<sup>st</sup> line: Penicillin V, Amoxicillin, 2<sup>nd</sup> line: Erythromycin

## **Complications of Strep Throat**

Bacteremia (rare), cervical lymphadenitis, meningitis (rare), otitis media, peritonsillar abscess, pneumonia (rare), rheumatic fever, scarlet fever, sinusitis. \*Note that treatment of strep throat does not prevent post-strep glomerulonephritis

## **SINUSITIS**

# **Diagnostic Criteria and Management of Bacterial Sinusitis**

Major (5)	Minor (6)

1) Facial pain / pressure / fullness, 2) Nasal obstruction, 3) Nasal 1) Cough, 2) Dental pain, 3) Ear pain / pressure or purulence, 4) Discoloured postnasal drip, 5) Hypo-/Anosmia fullness 4) Fatigue, 5) Halitosis, 6) Headache

For diagnosis of acute bacterial rhinosinusitis, the patient must have nasal purulence / discharge and at least one other symptom of facial pain, nasal obstruction, discoloured postnasal discharge or hyposmia/anosmia. Consider ABRS if the patient worsens after 5-7 days (biphasic illness) with similar symptoms, if symptoms persist for more than 7 days without improvement, or if purulence is present for 3-4 days with high fever.

Tx: Amoxicillin (if allergic give Clarithromycin or Azithromycin) • Saline rinse / spray, oral decongestant, intranasal steroids

### Acute vs. Chronic vs. Recurrent Sinusitis

**Acute Sinusitis** ≤ 4 weeks

Chronic Sinusitis > 12 weeks

**Recurrent Sinusitis**  $\geq$  4 episodes / yr,  $\varnothing$  symptoms in-between

### **Complications of Acute Rhinosinusitis**

Cavernous sinus thrombosis, chronic sinusitis, meningitis, (peri)orbital cellulitis / abscess

### Referrals

Referral to otolaryngologist for: anatomical anomalies, 4+ episodes/yr bacterial sinusitis, chronic sinusitis unresponsive to Tx

Red Flags (require urgent referral): Abnormal vision (diplopia, blindness, ↓ visual acuity), change in mental status, extraocular muscle dysfunction, meningitis, periorbital or forehead swelling / edema

## **ACUTE OTITIS MEDIA**

### Management

<6 Months >6 Months

Start antibiotics if: Child is <6 months, child looks toxic, follow-up cannot be assured, severe otalgia, temp >39°C Watchful waiting 48-72 hours (+ may offer deferred Rx) if: Mild signs & symptoms + follow-up assured

- High spontaneous recovery (80-90%). Treat earache/fever with acetaminophen/ibuprofen/other analgesics
- 1<sup>st</sup> Line: Amoxicillin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Line: Amoxicillin / Clavulanate or Cefprozil (see module for dosing & 3<sup>rd</sup> line drugs)
- Ciprodex otic drops for chronic TM perforation / t-tube ventilation (presentation = chronic painless discharge)

Reassess

Ø improvement / worsening of symptoms, new symptoms (i.e. rash, drowsiness, difficulty breathing, vomiting)



## **BRONCHITIS**

## Differentiating Bronchitis vs. Pneumonia

**Bronchitis** Afebrile, patient does not appear as sick

**Pneumonia** ± Consolidation on X-Ray, ± tachypnea, ± tachycardia, ↑ WBC, ± dullness to percussion

Note: Sputum culture often unhelpful unless considering TB or in special population (i.e. immunocompromised)

#### Management

Supportive, fluids, rest, analgesics, antitussives, opioid-based cough suppressants (limit duration), bronchodilators

Antibiotics Not routinely used because 90% viral etiology. Consider antimicrobial therapy if ↑ risk significant complications

(i.e. elderly, comorbidities) or pneumonia/pertussis suspected.

**Prevention** Frequent hand washing, smoking cessation, irritant exposure avoidance

## **URINARY TRACT INFECTION**

### **Investigations**

Clinic Urine Dipstick → WBC, RBC, Nitrites → If 2+ of dysuria, leukocytes, nitrites → Treat without culture

Laboratory Urine Culture → Most common bacteria associated with UTI: "KEEPS" (90% E. coli)

### Differentiating Uncomplicated vs. Complicated UTI

**Uncomplicated:** Diaphragm/spermicide use, family history of UTI, frequent sexual intercourse, infrequent voiding, new sexual partner within last year, previous UTIs, young  $\stackrel{\triangle}{\rightarrow}$ 

**Complicated:** Anatomical anomaly, immunocompromized, instrumentation (catheter, nephrostomy tube, urologic procedure), ♂

# Differentiating Clinical & Laboratory Features of UTI vs. Pyelonephritis

UTI	Pyelonephritis	Both
Absence of flank pain, afebrile, normal	± CVA Tenderness, ± N/V, ↑ WBC	Dysuria, frequency, ± hematuria, suprapubic
WBC, patient appears less sick		pain, urgency

## Management

## **Asymptomatic Bacteriuria**

Screen <u>only</u> in pregnancy or post-op GU procedures. Do not treat elderly with asymptomatic bacteriuria. If UTI suspected, culture before Rx.

## Uncomplicated UTI ♀ >12 yrs

 $\underline{1}^{\text{st}}$  Line: Nitrofurantoin or TMP-SMX (see module for dosing &  $2^{\text{nd}}/3^{\text{rd}}$  line drugs)

Complicated UTIs

Same drugs but ↑ treatment duration (see module for details)

Prevention / Non-Pharmacologic

Avoiding spermicide-containing contraception, post-coital micturition, hygiene practices, frequent urination, cranberry juice / tablets

Referrals

Refer for: persistent hematuria following resolution of UTI, recurrent UTI not managed with

prophylactic antibiotics, anatomic anomalies (i.e. prolapse, stricture)

# **VAGINITIS**

# Differentiating Yeast Vaginitis (YV) vs. Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)

YV: Associated itchiness, thick/white cottage cheese-like discharge BV: Associated odour, grey/thin discharge

### Investigations & Management

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Yeast Vaginitis	Vaginal swab → Rx Vaginal preparations of clotrimazole or miconazole			
BV	Vaginal swab (*) or KOH Whiff Test → Rx Metronidazole PO or intravaginal metronidazole/clindamycin			
Trichomonas	Vaginal Swab (Diamond's Medium) → Rx Metronidazole PO			
Chlamydia	Cervical swab → Rx Azithromycin PO	* Rx for both Chlamydia and Gonorrhea at		
Gonorrhea	Cervical swab → Rx Ceftriaxone IM + Azithromycin PO	same time because often co-infected		

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