## **Antibiotics in Upper Respiratory Tract Infection**



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### **Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infections**

- Otitis Media in Children
- Acute Bacterial Rhinosinusitis
- Acute Pharyngitis
- Acute Bronchitis
- Nonspecific Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
- Influenza
- Practical Strategies for Reducing Inappropriate Antibiotic Use



## ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS

- The recent, usually abrupt onset of signs and symptoms of middle ear inflammation and effusion
- The presence of middle ear effusion as indicated by bulging of the tympanic membrane, limited or absent mobility of the tympanic membrane, air fluid level behind the tympanic membrane, or otorrhea.
- The presence of signs or symptoms of middle ear inflammation as indicated by erythema of the tympanic membrane or otalgia

## AOM PAIN ASSESSMENT

- Acetaminophen and/or ibuprofen
- Topical agents such as benzocaine, home remedies such as oil, the application of heat or cold also may be helpful
- Symptomatic relief is important to maximize patient comfort and to minimize sick days

### AOM

## ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY VS. WATCHFUL WAITING

#### Severe illness

Moderate to severe otalgia or temperature greater than 39°C in the past 24 hours

#### Nonsevere illness

- ▶ Mild otalgia and temperature less than 39°C.
- Watchful waiting with close follow up
  - Children 6mo to 2yr of age with nonsevere symptoms and an uncertain Dx.
  - Older children with nonsevere symptoms, regardless of the certainty of Dx.
- For all other children, antibiotics are recommended.
- Otitis media with effusion is defined as fluid in the middle ear space but without the symptoms of an acute infection
  - Caused by a viral upper respiratory infection or may be a consequence of acute otitis media
  - Antibiotic therapy is not required.



- A diagnosis of acute bacterial Rhinosinusitis may be made in children and adults with symptoms of a viral upper respiratory infection that:
  - ► Have not improved after 10 days or that worsen after five to seven days
  - Double sickening
  - Severity in onset
    - Purulent nasal discharge, high grade fever and chills
- Treatment is reserved for patients who have symptoms for more than 10 days or who experience worsening symptoms

# Acute Pharyngitis

- Most patients with sore throat from an infectious cause have a virus
  - Conjunctivitis, cough, coryza, and diarrhea
- Group A beta-hemolytic streptococcus (GABHS) pharyngitis accounts for 15 to 30 percent of pharyngitis cases in children and approximately 10 percent in adults
  - Rapid antigen
  - Culture
  - Criteria

# Acute Bronchitis

- Bronchitis is inflammation of the bronchial respiratory mucosa leading to a productive cough
  - More than 90 percent of cases of uncomplicated acute bronchitis have nonbacterial etiologies
  - Antibiotics usually are not indicated for nonspecific cough illness
  - If pneumonia is suspected the diagnosis should be confirmed with chest radiography before antibiotics are prescribed.
- If the cough is prolonged for more than 10 days, a bacterial etiology should be considered

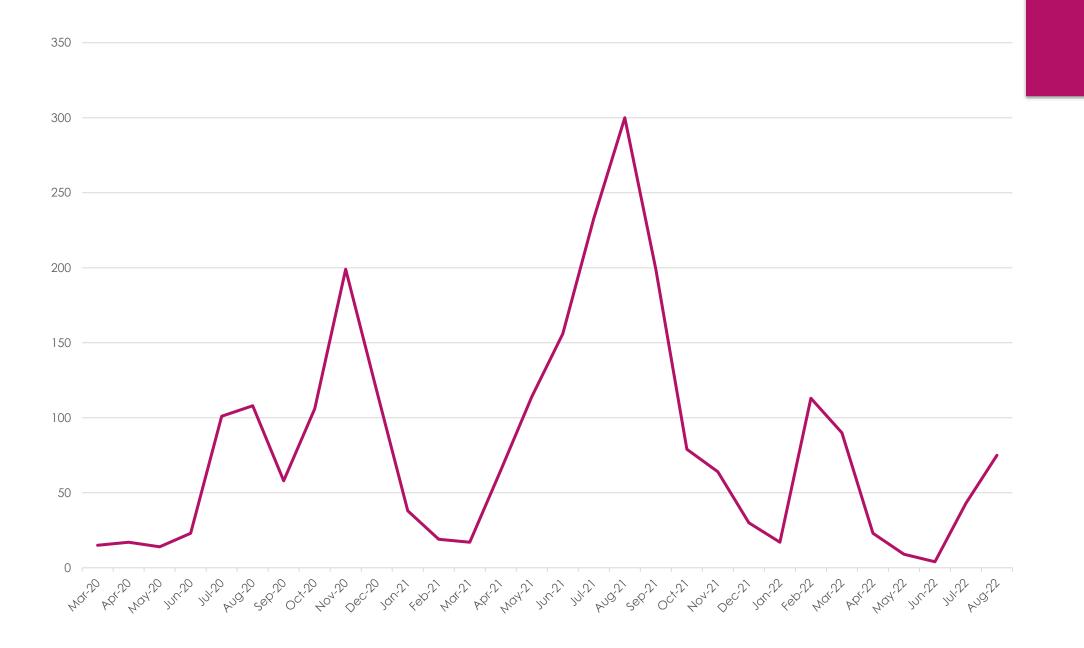
## Nonspecific Upper Respiratory Tract Infection

- Nonspecific upper respiratory tract infection presents with symptoms that often are referred to as the common cold
- Causative agents include numerous viruses
  - ► Rhinoviruses
  - Adenoviruses
  - Respiratory syncytial viruses
  - Parainfluenza viruses
  - Enteroviruses
  - Coronaviruses
- Treatment consists of adequate fluid intake, rest, humidified air, and over-the-counter analgesics and antipyretics

## STUDY OF OUTPATIENT CHILDREN IN FIVE WAVES OF COVID-19, COMPARING CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS, NEED FOR HOSPITALIZATION, AND ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTION

# 2448 cases, Kerman, Iran

Variable		Numbers	Percent
Times of Infection	2 times	192	7.84
	3 times	35	1.43
	4 times	7	0.29
	5 times	2	0.8
	Parents	716	29.25
Index case	Other families	120	4.9
	Kinder garden	230	9.4
	Unknown	1382	56.45
Management	Outpatient	2305	94.16%
	Hospitalization	143	5.84%
	Azithromycin	207	47.70%
Antibiotic	Co-trimoxazol	26	5.99%
	Amoxicillin	126	29.03%
	Cefuroxime	75	17.28%
	Total	434	17.73%



# Influenza

- Influenza is characterized by the abrupt onset of fever, myalgias, headache, rhinitis, severe malaise, nonproductive cough, and sore throat
- The main treatment is supportive care to relieve symptoms
- Antiviral medications

## Practical Strategies for Reducing Inappropriate Antibiotic Use

- Patients often expect an antibiotic for an acute respiratory infection
- You may feel pressured to prescribe an unnecessary antibiotic
- If the diagnosis is a viral illness, the physician needs to have a contingency plan to explain to the patient why an antibiotic will not be prescribed
- Patients should be educated about the difference between bacterial and viral infections and why antibiotics will be ineffective for a viral illness
- Several studies have indicated that giving patients an antibiotic prescription and telling them not to fill it unless their symptoms worsen or do not improve after several days has been shown to reduce antibiotic use
- Developing an easy-access follow-up visit for patients who do not improve may alleviate some of the anxieties associated with not getting an antibiotic
- An educational intervention such as instructing patients on the appropriate indications for antibiotic use can help maintain patient satisfaction without prescribing antibiotics.

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