Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

THE USE OF CENTOR AND/OR FEVERPAIN SCORING CRITERIA TO DETERMINE ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING IN ACUTE SORE THROAT ACCORDING TO NICE NG84 GUIDELINE

Harpreet Kaur Dodd, Adam Atkinson. 1James Cook University Hospital; 2Gateshead NHS Trust

Background NICE guideline NG84 sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for acute sore throat. The aim is to limit inappropriate prescribing, which can lead to antibiotic resistance as well as suppurative and non-suppurative complications such as Rheumatic fever. The highest incidence of acute sore throat is in children (NICE CKS, 2021) yet there are no studies or national audit data which look at use of NG84 in paediatric patients presenting to secondary care. Therefore, we studied the use of scoring systems within the Paediatric Acute admissions unit, and if antimicrobial use and choice was appropriate.

Objectives
1. In paediatric patients who presented with sore throat to secondary care, to identify if Fever Pain or Centor Criteria was formally used
2. Identify whether antibiotic prescribing was initiated as per defined scoring criteria and
3. Identify if antibiotic choice was appropriate in accordance with the NG84 recommendation.

Methods Two researchers retrospectively reviewed ED notes and discharge summaries from Medway of paediatric patients presenting with 'sore throat' between 15/03/20–30/05/20. FeverPain and Centor scores were calculated from notes and outcomes compared to NG4 guidance.

Results 54 cases were identified, ranging 0–13 years of age. 4 cases were excluded due to alternate diagnoses. In all cases specific references to FeverPain or Centor criteria were not recorded. We could not calculate FeverPain in 10 cases (20%), and Centor scores in 16 cases (32%) due to lack of clinical detail. Most missed criteria included examination of throat and assessment for cervical lymphadenopathy. Using FeverPain criteria, antibiotic prescription was indicated in 31 cases. 29 cases received antibiotics. Using Centor criteria, antibiotic prescription was indicated in 32 cases, with 29 cases receiving antibiotics. Appropriate antibiotic selection occurred in 89.7% of cases.

Conclusions We do not reference clinical scoring systems in notes, yet appropriate antibiotic choices are made in 89.7% of cases. Throat and neck examination was most frequently missed, however this study was carried out after RCPCH advised against examination of sore throats unless necessary. To improve practice, we have created a sticker with FeverPain scoring criteria, as well as a clinical education tool. We will re-audit results in 2021. Further research is needed to validate a which scoring system is best in children presenting acutely to secondary care with an acute sore throat.

British Paediatric Allergy Immunity and Infection Group

THE USE OF CENTOR AND/OR FEVERPAIN SCORING CRITERIA TO DETERMINE ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING IN ACUTE SORE THROAT ACCORDING TO NICE NG84 GUIDELINE

Harpreet Kaur Dodd, Adam Atkinson. 1James Cook University Hospital; 2Gateshead NHS Trust

Background NICE guideline NG84 sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for acute sore throat. The aim is to limit inappropriate prescribing, which can lead to antibiotic resistance as well as suppurative and non-suppurative complications such as Rheumatic fever. The highest incidence of acute sore throat is in children (NICE CKS, 2021) yet there are no studies or national audit data which look at use of NG84 in paediatric patients presenting to secondary care. Therefore, we studied the use of scoring systems within the Paediatric Acute admissions unit, and if antimicrobial use and choice was appropriate.

Objectives
1. In paediatric patients who presented with sore throat to secondary care, to identify if Fever Pain or Centor Criteria was formally used
2. Identify whether antibiotic prescribing was initiated as per defined scoring criteria and
3. Identify if antibiotic choice was appropriate in accordance with the NG84 recommendation.

Methods Two researchers retrospectively reviewed ED notes and discharge summaries from Medway of paediatric patients presenting with 'sore throat' between 15/03/20–30/05/20. FeverPain and Centor scores were calculated from notes and outcomes compared to NG4 guidance.

Results 54 cases were identified, ranging 0–13 years of age. 4 cases were excluded due to alternate diagnoses. In all cases specific references to FeverPain or Centor criteria were not recorded. We could not calculate FeverPain in 10 cases (20%), and Centor scores in 16 cases (32%) due to lack of clinical detail. Most missed criteria included examination of throat and assessment for cervical lymphadenopathy. Using FeverPain criteria, antibiotic prescription was indicated in 31 cases. 29 cases received antibiotics. Using Centor criteria, antibiotic prescription was indicated in 32 cases, with 29 cases receiving antibiotics. Appropriate antibiotic selection occurred in 89.7% of cases.

Conclusions We do not reference clinical scoring systems in notes, yet appropriate antibiotic choices are made in 89.7% of cases. Throat and neck examination was most frequently missed, however this study was carried out after RCPCH advised against examination of sore throats unless necessary. To improve practice, we have created a sticker with FeverPain scoring criteria, as well as a clinical education tool. We will re-audit results in 2021. Further research is needed to validate a which scoring system is best in children presenting acutely to secondary care with an acute sore throat.