

ESPID Committee for Guidelines

Existing guidelines on the management of children with Group A streptococcal infection

With the [recent reports of increased cases of invasive Group A streptococcal \(IGAS\) infections](#) in a number of countries, the [ESPID Committee for Guidelines \(CfG\)](#) recognises an urgent need for guidelines on the management of this condition. As a first step, the committee has gathered here a preliminary list of existing guidelines. We would like to expand this collection by asking ESPID members to tell us about other existing guidelines in their countries.

An initial review shows that existing guidelines differ in their focus (e.g., pharyngitis vs scarlet fever vs IGAS vs toxic shock syndrome), the particular aspects they cover and their intended audience (e.g., specialist vs paediatrician vs general practice vs parents). In addition, many have not been updated for a number of years.

As a next step, the CfG plans to compare the recommendations in different guidelines and ultimately to oversee the creation of an ESPID-approved comprehensive guideline. This will include some of the more controversial or difficult aspects of management including:

- When to treat sore throat
- Alternatives to penicillin, amoxicillin, cefalexin when there are shortages
- Treatment of household and other contacts of IGAS (chemoprophylaxis)
- Use of IVIG and clindamycin/linezolid in toxic shock syndrome
- Treatment of GAS carriers
- Recurrent GAS pharyngitis

In the meantime, the following are the guidelines identified to date by the CfG (in reverse chronological order). Inclusion in this list does not imply approval or endorsement of the guidelines by the CfG or ESPID.

UK: NHS England (Dec 2022)

[Group A streptococcus in children: Interim clinical guidance summary](#)

[Group A streptococcus in children – guidance for primary and community care settings](#)

UK: Health Security Agency (Dec 2022)

[Invasive group A streptococcal disease: managing close contacts](#)

Spain: Sociedad Española De Infectología Pediátrica (2022)

[Alerta sobre infecciones invasivas graves por Streptococcus pyogenes](#) (Spanish)

Australia: NSW Health (July 2022)

[Invasive Group A Streptococcus control guideline](#)

Australia: Northern Territory (2022)

[Public Health Management of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease](#)

Dec 2022

Switzerland: Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Infektiologie (2022)
[Pharyngitis](#) (German/French)

Greece (2022)
[Στρεπτόκοκκος της ομάδας A – Πληροφορίες για το κοινό](#) (Greek)

India: Indian Academy of Pediatrics (Dec 2022)
[Acute Pharyngitis/Acute Tonsillopharyngitis](#)

Germany: Robert Koch Institut (May 2018)
[Streptococcus pyogenes-Infektionen](#) (German)

Australia: Queensland Health (2018)
[Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease](#)

Belgium: Comité d'évaluation des pratiques médicales en matière de médicaments (2016)
[L'usage rationnel des antibiotiques chez l'enfant en ambulatoire](#) (French)

Australia: Victoria (2015)
[Streptococcal disease \(Group A beta-haemolytic streptococcus\)](#)

Australia: Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Clinical Practice Guideline
[Invasive Invasive group A streptococcal infections: management of household contacts](#)

Canada: Canadian Paediatric Society (2010)
[Invasive group A streptococcal disease: Management and chemoprophylaxis](#) (English/French)

USA: American Heart Association (2009)
[Prevention of Rheumatic Fever and Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute Streptococcal Pharyngitis](#)

Ireland: Health Protection Surveillance Centre (2006)
[The Management of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections in Ireland](#)

France: Ministère De La Santé Et Des Solidarités (2005)
[D'infections invasives à Streptococcus pyogenes \(ou streptocoques du groupe A\)](#) (French)

USA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2003)
[Prevention of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease among Household Contacts of Case Patients and among Postpartum and Postsurgical Patients](#)

Other Relevant Publications

[Worldwide comparison of treatment guidelines for sore throat](#)

Coutinho *et al.* *Int J Clin Pract* (2021)

- The availability of sore throat guidelines varies considerably by region and country. Moreover, important divergence is found among the guidelines regarding diagnostic and treatment criteria. This may be explained by the historical background or adoption of external guidelines, rather than local incidences of GAS infections or acute rheumatic fever. Absence of recommendations on symptomatic treatment in many guidelines is concerning, and raises issues about antimicrobial stewardship, as this should be the mainstay of sore throat management, rather than antibiotics.

[Recent trends in invasive group A Streptococcus disease in Victoria.](#)

Oliver J, Wilmot M, Strachan J, St George S, Lane CR, Ballard SA, Sait M, Gibney K, Howden BP, Williamson DA. *Commun Dis Intell* (2018). 2019 Mar 15;43. doi: 10.33321/cdi.2019.43.8.PMID: 30879286

- Includes a summary of clinical guidelines concerning the management of household contacts of severe invasive group A Streptococcus disease index cases.

[Toxic shock syndrome - the seven Rs of management and treatment.](#)

Wilkins AL, Steer AC, Smeesters PR, Curtis N. *J Infect*. 2017 Jun;74 Suppl 1:S147-S152. doi: 10.1016/S0163-4453(17)30206-2.PMID: 28646955.

[Are household contacts of patients with invasive group A streptococcal disease at higher risk of secondary infection?](#)

Carr JP, Curtis N, Smeesters PR, Steer A. *Arch Dis Child*. 2016 Feb;101(2):198-201. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2015-309788.PMID: 26792903.

[ASO titer or not? When to use streptococcal serology: a guide for clinicians.](#)

Parks T, Smeesters PR, Curtis N, Steer AC. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2015 May;34(5):845-9. doi: 10.1007/s10096-014-2303-8. Epub 2015 Jan 6.PMID: 25560708.

[Invasive group a streptococcal disease: epidemiology, pathogenesis and management.](#)

Steer AC, Lamagni T, Curtis N, Carapetis JR. *Drugs*. 2012 Jun 18;72(9):1213-27. doi: 10.2165/11634180-000000000-00000.PMID: 22686614.

[Guideline for the management of acute sore throat.](#)

ESCMID Sore Throat Guideline Group, Pelucchi C, Grigoryan L, Galeone C, Esposito S, Huovinen P, Little P, Verheij T. *Clin Microbiol Infect*. 2012 Apr;18 Suppl 1:1-28. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-0691.2012.03766.x.PMID: 22432746