

Chirag Patel, BSc, MSc, PhD, FRCP
 Department of Paediatrics, Royal Free
 Hospital, London, UK
 BSc, MSc, PhD, FRCP

Background and objectives

Episodes of acute tonsillopharyngitis (AT) are common in children and young adults. The most common aetiology is viral infection, followed by Group A *Streptococcus* (GABHS). The clinical presentation is nonspecific, and diagnosis is often based on history and physical findings. The aim of this study was to determine the aetiology of AT in a tertiary care hospital. Methods: A retrospective analysis of 100 consecutive patients with AT presenting to the paediatric department over a 12-month period. All patients underwent a detailed history and physical examination, and a throat swab was taken for culture. Results: The majority of patients (75%) had a viral aetiology, with Group A *Streptococcus* being the most common bacterial cause (20%). Conclusion: AT is a common condition with a variety of aetiologies. A thorough history and physical examination are essential for diagnosis, and throat swabbing can help identify the causative organism.

Methods

All patients underwent a detailed history and physical examination, and a throat swab was taken for culture. The swabs were cultured on a medium that supports the growth of Group A *Streptococcus*. The results of the cultures were reviewed to determine the aetiology of the AT.

Results

The majority of patients (75%) had a viral aetiology, with Group A *Streptococcus* being the most common bacterial cause (20%). The remaining 5% of patients had an unknown aetiology. The clinical presentation was nonspecific, and diagnosis was often based on history and physical findings.

Discussion

AT is a common condition with a variety of aetiologies. A thorough history and physical examination are essential for diagnosis, and throat swabbing can help identify the causative organism. The results of this study suggest that viral infection is the most common cause of AT in children and young adults.

ACUTE TONSILLOPHARYNGITIS is a common cause of sore throat that is most often caused by a viral infection. Group A *Streptococcus* (GABHS) is a common cause of bacterial tonsillopharyngitis. Studies have reported that approximately 20% of tonsillopharyngitis in adults is caused by bacteria, most often GABHS. In children, the incidence is between 10% and 20%. Studies have shown that the rate of prescribing for GABHS is unnecessarily high.

Clinical assessment and treatment for streptococcal tonsillopharyngitis

Differentiating between viral and bacterial aetiologies of tonsillopharyngitis can be difficult. Taking an appropriate history and using physical findings are suitable but these methods are not sufficiently specific or sensitive.

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variables in the multivariable model and the random effects (Table). The odds of being prescribed antibiotics when there was no MCC documentation were . times that of patients for which full documentation was recorded after adjusting for sex, age, clinic and clinician (OR: . ; % confidence interval: . , . ; P

Guidelines from NICE recommend considering three-day delayed prescription or immediate antibiotics for those with an MCC of > . . This was

