

Antibiotic Decision Making for Group A Streptococcal (GAS) Pharyngitis

Terms:

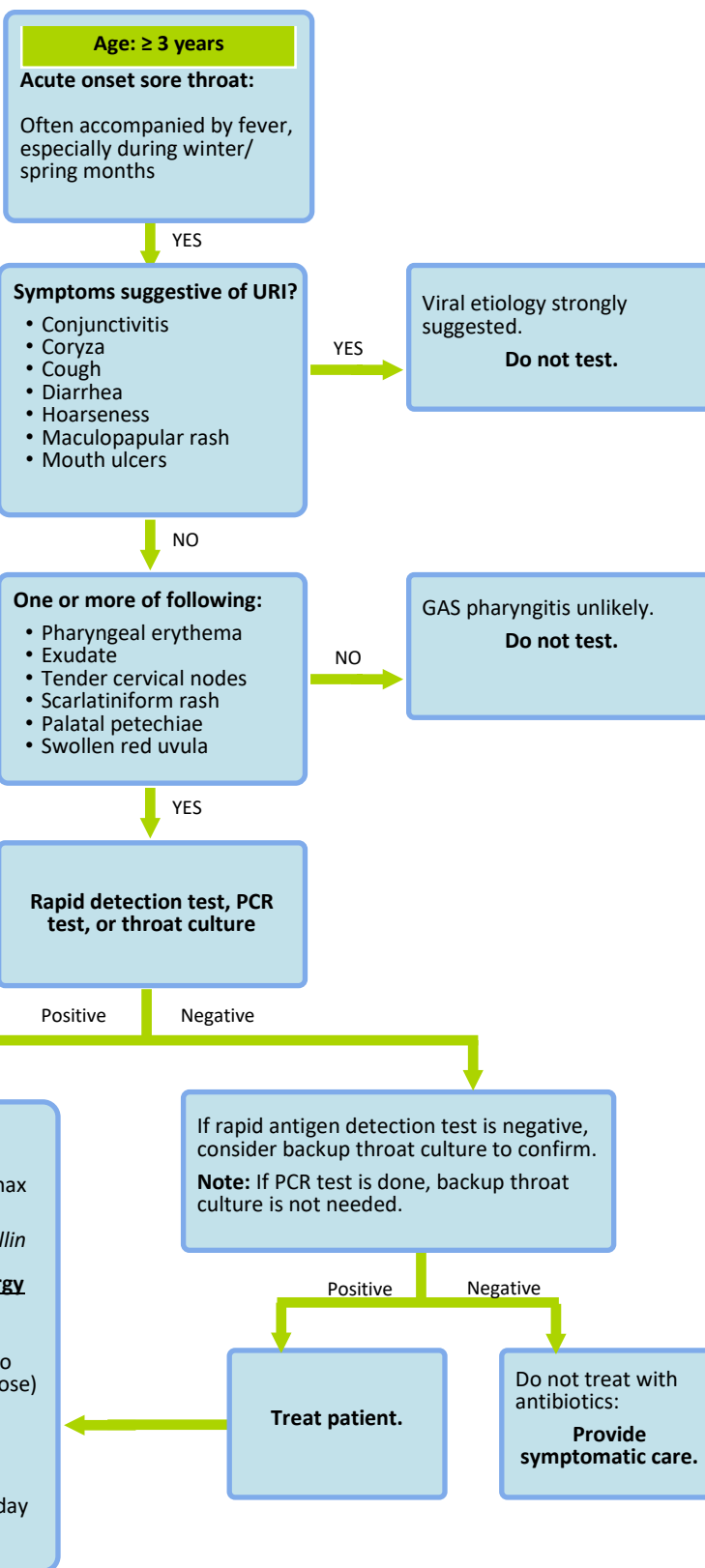
URI = Upper respiratory infection

po = By mouth

PCR = Polymerase chain reaction

Note:

Testing of children <3 years old is not generally indicated unless signs and symptoms consistent with strep throat and household contact with documented GAS pharyngitis infection.



1. Identify patient with suspected strep throat.

2. Use diagnostic testing.

3. Target drug of choice.

Footnotes

1. Inappropriate therapy:

- Fluoroquinolones
- Tetracyclines
- TMP/SMX

2. Not preferred because unnecessarily broad spectrum:

- Second- and third-generation cephalosporins
- Macrolides: Not recommended unless severe allergy to penicillin and cephalosporins exist. Resistance is known, and treatment failures related to macrolide resistance have occurred.

Reference

Shulman ST, Bisno, AL, Clegg HW, et al. [Clinical practice guideline for the diagnosis and management of group A streptococcal pharyngitis: 2012 update](#) by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2012;55(10):e86-e102

