

Dear IAP IDians,

We are extremely pleased to present the September to December 2021 issue of Pediatric Infectious Disease, which is being published on time. This issue has very interesting articles.

Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Buccal Swab Specimens in Children with Pulmonary Tuberculosis Using Cartridge-based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test is an interesting study. This observational study is designed to detect *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in buccal swab specimens using CBNAAT in children suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) and to compare with CBNAAT results with gastric aspirate and sputum specimen. The authors conclude that buccal swabs can be used to detect *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in children with pulmonary TB. It can serve as simple and convenient alternative method for TB diagnosis

Periodic surveillance of causative organisms of acute meningitis in children is helpful. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) findings characterize the type of meningitis and guide therapy to improve the outcome. The study Clinical Profile, Cerebrospinal Fluid Findings, and Outcome of Acute Meningitis in Children: A Recent Audit from a Tertiary Center in India, is aimed to analyze clinical features, CSF characteristics, causative organisms and outcome of meningitis in children. Among 50 children with meningitis, 18% had ABM, 68% had APBM and 14% had ASM. The causative bacteria included *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Streptococcus viridians*, *Brucella* and *Salmonella typhimurium*: This study has explored the causative bacteria in acute meningitis in children and the characteristics of CSF and identified the important complications.

Skin and soft tissue infections are common in pediatric age-group in developing countries, where the risk factors are commonplace. These SSTIs may be classified for the ease of management into uncomplicated (uSSTIs) and complicated SSTIs (cSSTI). Folliculitis, furuncles, impetigo, ecthyma and erysipelas are grouped under uSSTI; whereas abscess, carbuncle and cellulitis come under cSSTI. Most of them are secondary to *Staphylococcus aureus* and Group A beta hemolytic Streptococci. Antibiotic treatment must be based on antimicrobial sensitivities and local community resistance patterns. Antibiotics like beta-lactams, first-generation cephalosporins, trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole, and clindamycin are effective in most patients. However, methicillin resistance *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a serious concern in cases worldwide, including India. Newer molecules like dalbavancin, telavancin, tigecycline, ceftaroline and tedizolid are emerging. In this article, the author has extensively reviewed the various aspects of skin and soft tissue infections in children.

The articles on Increased Self-medication with Steroids in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patients during COVID-19 Pandemic: Time to Optimize Specialized Telemonitoring Services -describes increased use of steroids during the pandemic among patients with inflammatory bowel disease

Parental Perception on COVID-19 Vaccination for Children: A Cross-sectional Survey assesses parental perceptions of COVID-19 vaccination in children. Survey on COVID-19 vaccination in children was sent to 3,900 parents. Measures to be implemented even after vaccination to be comfortable in sending their child to school were assessed.

Diphtheria is a vaccine-preventable disease despite universal immunization program. Outbreaks are reported from many Indian states with low immunization coverage since the last decade. Timely intervention and administration of diphtheria antitoxin (DAT) is the mainstay of treatment. This study on Clinical and Laboratory Profile of Diphtheria Patients and Role of Diphtheria Antitoxin in Recent Outbreak of Diphtheria is a Case Series conducted in Uttarakhand state during an outbreak of diphtheria in Bageshwar district reported in August 2020 which resulted in high mortality due to limited resources, complications and nonavailability of diphtheria antitoxin (DAT). The conclusion of this study is strict epidemiological surveillance for case detection and strengthening of immunization is needed. Timely management with empirical antibiotics with DAT results in favorable prognosis.

The issue also has interesting case reports on Invasive Maxillary Sinus Aspergillosis in a Child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and A Case of Fever and Rash Following a Urinary Tract Infection. Hope these articles make an interesting read.

With best wishes!

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