

FEVER

APPROACH TO A CHILD WITH FEVER BEYOND 2 WEEKS

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Abstract: *Prolonged fever of two weeks duration or more poses diagnostic challenges due to a wide variety of differential diagnoses including infections, malignancies, rheumatological conditions and other rare causes. It is important to have a structured approach to make a definitive diagnosis. A good history, meticulous physical examination supported by a step wise escalation of investigations to arrive at a definite diagnosis is the key to successful management of prolonged fever. Empirical steroids, anti-tuberculous and broad spectrum antibiotic therapy should be avoided till a definite diagnosis is established.*

Keywords: *Fever, Pyrexia of unknown origin, Approach, Algorithm.*

Points to Remember

- *A detailed history and thorough examination are the cornerstone for diagnosis in a child with prolonged fever.*
- *Epidemiological data, contact history, previous medical history, fever pattern, focused physical examination and screening tests often provide adequate information to establish a diagnosis.*
- *Non-invasive tests are performed first before taking up the child for invasive and expensive investigations in a step wise manner based on the clinical details.*
- *Management includes supportive treatment as well as targeted therapy after the diagnosis is obtained. empirical broad spectrum antimicrobials, anti-malarials, anti tuberculous therapy and steroids should be avoided.*

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