FEVER

ANTIMICROBIAL CHOICE IN TROPICAL INFECTIONS

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Abstract: *Febrile infections that are prevalent and unique to tropical and subtropical regions are collectively known as tropical infections. Enteric fever, leptospirosis, scrub typhus and malaria are the most commonly encountered tropical infections in our country. Epidemiology, disease pattern, morbidity and mortality varies from region to region. It is important to treat them early as delay in institution of specific therapy may lead to increased morbidity and mortality. Early diagnosis and prompt management by choosing appropriate antimicrobial agents is very crucial for favorable outcome. Blood culture is the gold standard for the diagnosis of enteric fever. Third generation cephalosporins are considered as the first choice for treatment. Azithromycin is reserved for relapses and should ideally be used for extensively drug resistant typhoid. Diagnosis of leptospirosis and scrub typhus mainly depend upon relevant epidemiological factors with typical clinical features. Drug of choice for leptospirosis is penicillin while doxycycline is the drug of choice for scrub typhus. For uncomplicated P.vivax chloroquine is the drug of choice. Artemesinin combination therapy is recommended for falciparum malaria. All severe and complicated malaria should be treated as falciparum malaria. Primaquine is needed for prevention of relapses in malaria.*

Keywords: *Tropical infections, Antimicrobial, Enteric fever, Scrub typhus, Leptospirosis, Malaria, Children.*

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Points to Remember

- ***Third generation cephalosporins are the drug of choice for multidrug resistent typhoid currently and azithromycin is to be reserved for XDR enteric fever.***
- ***In mild cases of leptospirosis, doxycycline is to be used and in severe cases IV penicillin or ceftriaxone if allergic to penicillin.***
- ***Doxycycline is the drug of choice irrespective of the age of the child in Indian tick typhus and scrub typhus and treatment should begin promptly without waiting for confirmatory laboratory results.***
- ***For uncomplicated vivax malaria chloroquine is the drug of choice.***
- ***Artemesinin combination therapy is the treatment of choice in all cases of falciparum malaria.***
- ***All cases of severe and complicated malaria should be treated as falciparum malaria irrespective of the species of malarial parasite on smear examination.***
- ***For rapid killing of malaria parasites, IV artesunate is a must at least for the first 24 hours, even if the child is able to take orally.***
- ***Primaquine is recommended in appropriate dose and duration for prevention of relapses in malaria.***

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