

Over the counter medications- What can I give my child?

Sweeney Irizarry, BS
 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate 2021
 USF Health Taneja College of Pharmacy
 sweeneyirizarry@usf.edu

1

Objectives

- Identify common illnesses that affect children which are manageable with OTC products
- Assess the child presentation and recommend an appropriate OTC product for treatment
- Recommend non-pharmacological appropriate therapies

2

Common Cold

- Characteristics¹
- rhinorrhea
- cough
- sore throat
- fever
- malaise
- headache
- loss of appetite



3

Common Cold

- No benefit from antibiotics²
- Rule out bacterial infections
 - pneumonia, AOM, bacterial sinusitis and streptococcal pharyngitis
- Bronchiolitis, measles and pertussis start like a common cold

Lemmerling U, Duangmanee C, Kuekelen V, Sankaray P, Olson IC, Nguyen HC (1971). Evaluation of orally administered antibiotic for treatment of upper respiratory tract infection in Thai children. J Pediatr. 78:772-778.

4

Common Cold

- Non effective therapies
 - Echinacea purpurea³
 - Vitamin C^{4,5}
 - Homeopathic products
- Elderberry may be effective in adults⁶
- Zinc reduced duration and severity in adults⁷

5

Bacterial Sinusitis vs URI

- Diagnosis:^{8,9}
 - Nasal discharge or daytime cough lasting more than 10 days without improvement
 - Worsening course after initial improvement
 - Severe onset
 - Fever > 39 C or 102.2 F
 - Purulent discharge for at least 3 days

World Health Organization Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Acute Bacterial Sinusitis in Children Aged 2 to 18. Pediatrics. 2013;132(5):262-269

6

2

Bacterial Sinusitis vs URI

FIGURE 2
Uncomplicated viral URI.

Ward R, Elliot et al. Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Acute Bacterial Sinusitis in Children Aged 1 to 18. *Infection*. 2011;13(2):262-280.

7

Allergic Rhinitis

- Clinical feature:¹⁰
 - Rhinorrhea
 - Nasal itching
 - Sneezing
 - Postnasal drip
- Reversible spontaneously or with treatment

Bousquet J, Khatami N, Cray AA, et al. Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) 2008 update (in collaboration with the World Health Organization). *Respir Allergy Immunol*. 2008;20(1):1-106.

8

Allergic Rhinitis

• Second generation antihistamines are first line for mild cases ¹¹	• Loratadine	• Cetirizine	• Fexofenadine	• Intranasal corticosteroids are most effective for moderate to severe cases ¹²	• Fluticasone propionate	• Triamcinolone	• Budesonide
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Weiner JM, Abramson MJ, Puy RM. Intranasal corticosteroids versus oral H1 receptor antagonists in allergic rhinitis: systematic review of randomised controlled trials. *BMJ*. 1991;303(6804):626-629. doi:10.1136/bmj.303.6804.626

9

Allergic Rhinitis



- Nasal irrigation is effective for treatment of sinusitis symptoms¹³
- Addition of nasal irrigation to fluticasone may improve¹⁴ symptoms

10

Cough Treatments



- Expectorants- mixed data available in adults^{15,16}
 - Guifenesin
- Antihistamines - not effective¹⁷
 - Loratadine, Cetirizine, Fexofenadine
 - Chlorpheniramine, Diphenhydramine
- Antitussive- possibly effective¹⁸
 - Dextromethorphan

11

Non-pharmacological therapies



- Honey might reduce mucus secretion and cough in children^{19,20}
 - Avoid children <12 months
- Vapor rub²¹
 - Improves nasal congestion and sleep
 - Reduces severity of cough

12

Paul IM, Berlin J, McMenagle A, Shaffer ML, Duda L, Berlin CM. Effect of honey, dextromethorphan, and no treatment on nocturnal cough and sleep quality for coughing children and their parents. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2007;161(12):1405-6.

Antipyretics/Analgesics²²

- Ibuprofen²³ - 10mg/kg Q6-8H
 - max 40mg/kg/day
 - Acetaminophen 15mg/kg Q4-6H
 - max 90mg/kg/day
 - Combination therapy may be superior but not routinely recommended^{24,25}



Sullivan, J. Farrar, H. (2011). Fever and antipyretic use in children. *Pediatrics*, 127(3), 580.

13

Atopic Dermatitis

- Major clinical features:²⁶
 - Itching/pruritus
 - Chronic or relapsing history
 - Family history of atopy
 - Typical distribution/age specific pattern
 - Oozing, drainage, pus bumps, and yellow crusts might indicate infection



Elias PM, Steinkeff M. "Outside-to-inside" (and now back to "outside") pathogenic mechanisms in atop dermatitis. *J Invest Dermatol* 2003; 121: 1-5.

14

Skin-directed approach

- 1) Maintenance of skin care
 - 2) Topical anti-inflammatory medications
 - 3) Itch control
 - 4) Managing infectious triggers

15

Moisturizers²⁷



- Occlusive emollient- petrolatum, coal tar ointment
- Emollient creams- colloidal oatmeal, dimethicone
- Humectants- urea and glycerin draw water from environment into application site
- Ointments>creams>lotions

Gurn VC, Hobert AA, Dixon MV, et al. A review on the role of moisturizers for atopic dermatitis. *Acta Paediatr*. 2016;105(2):120-128. doi:10.1111/ajppa.13250

16

Atopic Dermatitis



- Hydrocortisone for flares and emollients for maintenance^{28,29}
- Avoid in children younger than 2 years old
- Avoid in face or skin folds
- Use until flare is gone or up to 2 weeks at a time

Caiati J, Chaudhury S, Eichenfeld LF, et al. A systematic review of the safety of topical therapies for atopic dermatitis. *Br J Dermatol*. 2007;156(2):205-221. doi:10.1038/sj.bjd.0122859

17

Itching



- AD may be referred to as the itch that rashes³⁰
- First generation vs second generation antihistamines^{31,32}
 - Caution with infants
 - Use only as needed
 - Lack evidence of efficacy

Hirman SM, Vender RB. Antihistamines in the treatment of dermatitis. *J Cutan Med Surg*. 2003;7(5):467-471. doi:10.1007/s10227-003-0164-1

18

Non-pharmacological tips

- Avoid triggers- scents, soaps, laundry detergents, allergens, sun exposure
- Minimize scratching
- Warm showers → apply emollient after patting dry while skin is still moist
- During flare add topical corticosteroid and more liberal use of emollients
- Bandages over treatment to prevent scratching³³

19

Diaper Rash

Primary cause:

- Prolonged/increased exposure to wetness/moisture and irritants
- Cutaneous immaturity and higher susceptibility to skin barrier disruption and absorption
- Increased friction

20

Diaper Rash

Severity of presentation



21

Diaper Rash Treatments

- Zinc oxide
 - Lanolin/petrolatum
 - Dimethicone
 - Colloidal Oatmeal
 - Coconut oil



22

Diaper Rash Non-pharm tips

- Keep diaper area clean and dry³⁴
 - Minimize exposure to irritants and moisture
 - Use protectants³⁵
 - Bathe the baby as opposed to washing with a cloth
 - Use emollients after bathing³⁶

23

Defining Constipation³⁷



Rome IV criteria

- ❑ Straining
 - ❑ Lumpy or hard stools
 - ❑ Sensation of incomplete evacuation
 - ❑ Sensation of anorectal obstruction/blockage
 - ❑ Manual maneuvers to facilitate defecation
 - ❑ ≥ 3 BMs per week

Tabbers MM, DiLoesano C, Berger MY, et al: Evaluation and treatment of functional constipation in infants and children: evidence-based recommendations from ESPGAN and NASPGHAN. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2014; 58(2):258-274.

24

Constipation Treatment

- Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) 3350
 - 1-1.5g/kg PO once daily for 3-6 days for fecal disimpaction
 - 0.4-0.8g/kg PO once daily for treatment of functional constipation
- Milk of Magnesia (1.2g/15mL)
 - 2-5 years 1.2g/day
 - 6-11 years 1.2-2.4g/day
 - 12-18 years 2.4-4.8g/day

Toborek MM, DiLorenzo C, Berger MY, et al. Evaluation and treatment of functional constipation in infants and children: evidence-based recommendations from ESPGAN and NAPSGAN. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2014;59(2):258-274.

25

Constipation Treatment

- Mineral oil
 - 1-3mL/kg/day, max 90mL
 - Risk of aspiration and lipid pneumonitis, especially in children with neurologic impairment
 - Avoid in children less than 12 or with difficulty swallowing
- Enemas
- Bisacodyl
- Senna

Toborek MM, DiLorenzo C, Berger MY, et al. Evaluation and treatment of functional constipation in infants and children: evidence-based recommendations from ESPGAN and NAPSGAN. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2014;59(2):258-274.

26

Constipation Non-Pharmacological Treatment

- Fiber supplements³⁸
- Fluid intake
- Pre/Pro biotics
- Behavioral therapy

Toborek MM, DiLorenzo C, Berger MY, et al. Evaluation and treatment of functional constipation in infants and children: evidence-based recommendations from ESPGAN and NAPSGAN. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2014;59(2):258-274.

27

Constipation Non-Pharmacological Treatment

- Prunes/Prune Juice- High Sorbitol Content³⁹
- Exercise⁴⁰
- OTC supplements
 - Cascara sagrada
 - Rhubarb
 - Aloe vera juice

Hymes MR, Sleator JS. SECTION ON GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY, AND NUTRITION. COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION. *Pediatrics*. 2017;139(6):e20163602. doi:10.1542/peds.2016-3602

28

Diarrhea



- Acute gastroenteritis is the most common cause⁴¹
- Severity is dependent on etiology
- Dehydration is the main clinical feature and correlates with severity

Harman S, Steven E, Loeffel E, and Russell DA. Gastroenteritis in Children. *Am Fam Physician*. 2019 Feb;199(2):159-165.

29

Diarrhea Considerations

- High fat foods are difficult to absorb
- Food intolerance
 - i.e. lactose, gluten
- High sugar or sorbitol
- Unnecessary restriction of diet can prolong diarrhea
- Small frequent feeds

Guerrier A, Attakoussi N, Gendrel D, et al. European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition/European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Consensus statement on paucisymptomatic children in Europe. *Arch Dis Child*. 2014;99(8):612-617. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2013-305077

30

Diarrhea Treatments

- Oral rehydration solution 50mL/kg over 4 hours
 - Start slow and increase as tolerated
 - Consider diluted apple juice as an alternative to ORS⁴²
 - Resume normal feeds 4-6 hours after rehydration
 - No dietary restriction necessary

Guariso A, Ashkenazi S, Gendrel D, et al. European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition/European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases evidence-based guidelines for the management of acute gastroenteritis in children in Europe: update 2014. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr*. 2014;59:1322-1322.e12. doi:10.1097/MPG.0000000000000675

31

Diarrhea Treatments

- Loperamide⁴³
 - Not recommended for management of acute gastroenteritis
 - Not recommended in young children (<6 years)
 - Bismuth Subsalicylate⁴⁴
 - Darkening of tongue and stool
 - Risk of Reye's syndrome

Su-Ting T, Grossman D, & Cummings P. (2007) Loperamide therapy for acute diarrhea in children: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *PLoS Med* 4(1): e38.

32

Diarrhea Treatments

- Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG, Saccharomyces boulardii^{45,46,47}
 - May reduce symptoms
 - Zinc may be useful in the presence of a deficiency⁴⁷
 - Most useful in limited income countries

33

Nausea and Vomiting Non-Pharmacological Treatment

- Acupressure wristbands⁴⁹
- Phosphorated carbohydrate solution
- Sodium citrate dihydrate
- Ginger, chamomile, peppermint⁵⁰
- Aromatherapy⁵¹
- Rice water^{52,53,54}



34

Nausea and Vomiting in Motion Sickness

- Meclizine
 - Not for children < 12 years
- Diphenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate⁵⁵
 - Use limited by drowsiness
- Second generation antihistamines are not effective⁵⁶

35

Takeaway Points

- Medications can't be simply dose adjusted for children
- Some medications are either not appropriate for children or not effective
- Most common illnesses are self limited and only require supportive care
- Always behave as a patient advocate

36

Thank you!

37

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38

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39

13

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40

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41

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42

14

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