

Healthcare/consumer information questions

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What is neutropenic fever and risk reduction?

Topic: Neutropenic fever

Question: What is neutropenic fever?

(to include definition and difference of fever and sepsis, difference of neutropenic and non-neutropenic fever/sepsis, how common, risk factors including level and duration of neutropenia, signs, symptoms, causes including how often microbes recovered, which ones, non-infective causes, prognosis (admission rate, ICU rate, death rate; risk factors for poor outcome), diagnosis, complications and risk, duration of neutropenia)

Topic: Reducing the risk of neutropenic fever through diet and self-care

Question: How can a patient reduce the risk of neutropenic fever through diet and self-care measures?

(to include diet, oral and perianal self-care, isolation, masks, and duration through chemotherapy cycles)

Topic: Dental care and neutropenic fever

Question: What is the advice surrounding dental care both pre-hab and during cancer therapy? (to include mucositis management, dentist review, mouthwash and general mouth cares)

Topic: Central line care and risks

Question: What are, and how to decrease, the risks associated with central line access when considering neutropenic fever?

Topic: Vaccinations

Question: When and what type of vaccinations does my patient, and the members of their household, require?

Topic: Unwell household contacts

Question: What are the most appropriate measures to take when a household member is unwell?

Topic: Environmental exposure

Question: What environmental exposures should be avoided to reduce the occurrence of neutropenic fever? (e.g. crowded, indoor areas)

Topic: Neutropenic fever in the setting of known chronic illnesses

Question: What is the risk of, and how to mitigate, neutropenic fever in the setting of known chronic illnesses?

Topic: Household pets

Question: Do household pets increase the risk of neutropenic fever, and how to mitigate this risk?

Topic: Environmental infection prevention strategies

Question: Is it safe to be exposed to home renovations, household cleaning, gardening and plants/flowers during neutropenic episodes?

Management of neutropenic fever

Topic: Monitoring for neutropenic fever

Question: What education is required for patients and/or carers/family members regarding the need to monitor for neutropenic fever when at home?

Topic: Low risk fever neutropenic pathways

Question: What is the evidence and comfort supporting low risk fever neutropenia pathways? (to include patient comfort, compliance and monitoring at home)

Topic: Growth factor support

Question: What is the indication for use of growth factors in the fever neutropenia setting?

Topic: Prophylactic antimicrobials

Question: When are prophylactic antimicrobials (i.e. antibacterials, antivirals, antifungals) indicated in the fever neutropenia setting and what agents and duration are most appropriate? Do we need to specifically cover post ASCT (ie posaconazole post allo) or will this be covered in a separate paper?

Topic: Duration of antibiotics after a neutropenic fever admission

Question: What is the duration of antibiotics required, both intravenous and oral, during and following a neutropenic fever admission? (to include transfer of patients to the oral/HITH setting)

Risk of neutropenic fever and treatment

Topic: The gut microbiome

Questions: What is the risk of antibiotic use to the microbiome and how can a patient optimise their microbiome and gut health?

Topic: Choice of antibiotics and effect on GVHD-mortality following an allogeneic stem cell transplant

Question: What antibiotics are indicated in the setting of neutropenic fever post allogeneic transplant and how does this impact GVHD-mortality?

Topic: Effect of neutropenic fever on cancer therapy

Question: How does neutropenic fever impact cancer therapy and outcomes? (i.e. delays, when is it safe to resume chemotherapy after neutropenic fever, microbiome effects on cancer therapy outcomes)

Topic: Long-term consequences

Questions: What are the long-term consequences associated with neutropenic fevers and its management?

Topic: De-colonisation of MRO

Question: Can a patient be de-colonised of resistant microbes and does this make future neutropenic fever easier to treat?

Patient education

Topic: What to do and where to present when at risk of neutropenic fever?

Question: What is the advice for patients in regards to what to do and where to present when at risk of neutropenic fever? (to include advice and implications for those living remotely or rurally)

Topic: Resuming activities post discharge from a neutropenic fever admission

Question: What is the advice surrounding resumption of activities (i.e. school, work, and childcare), and travelling home following a neutropenic fever admission? To include advice about remote/rural communities

Topic: Isolation

Question: What level of isolation is advised during neutropenic episodes to reduce the risk of neutropenic fever? When special precautions required are and what microbes can the patient transmit to others?

Topic: Recurrence of fever

Question: What is the management advice in the setting of recurrence of fever post discharge for neutropenic fever?

Topic: Education for patients

Question: What detail of education is necessary for patients surrounding antibiotic choice and associated side-effects?

Topic: Education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Question: How can neutropenic fever education be culturally adapted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians?

Topic/Question: How is febrile neutropenia different in paediatric patients?