

Inclusion Criteria:

- Suspected pharyngitis caused by Group A Streptococcus (GAS, *Streptococcus pyogenes*)

Exclusion Criteria:

- [Peritonsillar abscess](#)
- Lymphadenitis
- Viral stomatitis
- Retropharyngeal abscess
- Ludwig's angina

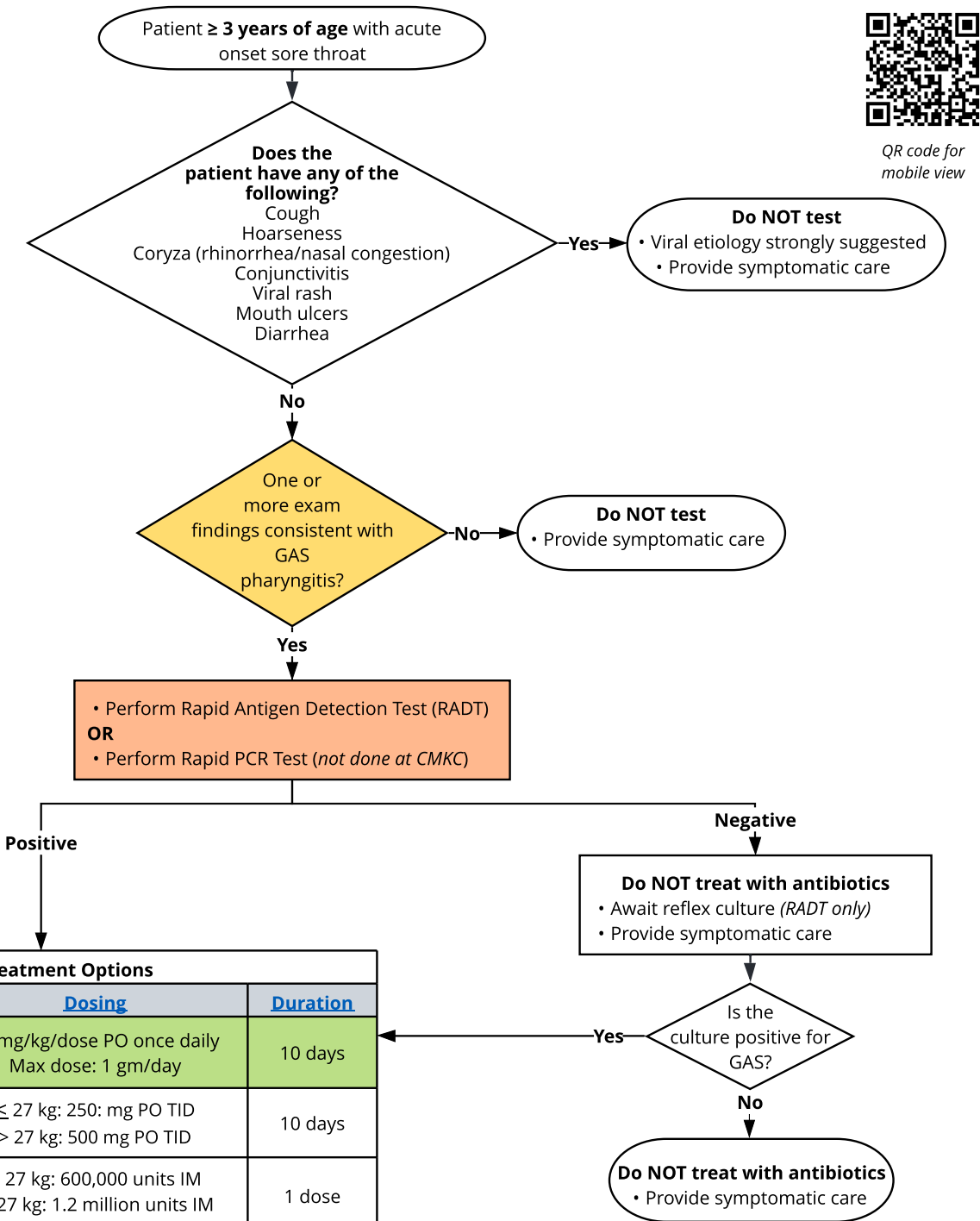
Clinical exam findings consistent with but not specific to Streptococcal pharyngitis:

- Tonsillopharyngeal erythema
- Tender anterior cervical nodes
- Scarlatiniform rash (*specific to Streptococcal pharyngitis*)
- Tonsillar exudate
- Palatal petechiae
- Swollen red uvula
- Strawberry tongue

Considerations before testing:

- In children < 3 years old, testing is not indicated unless they are symptomatic and there is a household contact with positive GAS
- Streptococcal pharyngitis typically presents in the winter/spring
- Fever alone without sore throat makes Streptococcal pharyngitis unlikely

Manifestations of GAS Other Than Pharyngitis



Antibiotic Treatment Options		
Drug	Dosing	Duration
Amoxicillin (Preferred treatment)	50 mg/kg/dose PO once daily Max dose: 1 gm/day	10 days
Penicillin V Potassium (Alternative choice)	≤ 27 kg: 250 mg PO TID > 27 kg: 500 mg PO TID	10 days
Penicillin G Benzathine (Alternative choice)	≤ 27 kg: 600,000 units IM > 27 kg: 1.2 million units IM	1 dose
*Cephalexin (Non-severe penicillin allergy -hives)	25 mg/kg/dose PO BID Maximum: 500 mg/dose	10 days
**Clindamycin (Severe penicillin allergy -anaphylaxis)	10 mg/kg/dose PO TID Maximum: 300 mg/dose	10 days
**Azithromycin (Severe penicillin allergy -anaphylaxis)	12 mg/kg/dose PO once daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose	5 days

*consider referral to antibiotic delabeling/penicillin allergy clinic

** resistance to both of these drugs is high and treatment failure can happen

Therapies NOT recommended:

- Aspirin
- Glucocorticoids
- Fluoroquinolones
 - Levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, moxifloxacin
- Tetracyclines
 - Minocycline, doxycycline, tetracycline
- Sulfa drugs
 - Sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim
- 2nd and 3rd generation cephalosporins
 - Cefuroxime, cefdinir, ceftriaxone
- Macrolides (unless severe allergy to penicillin and cephalosporin)