



## PAEDIATRIC ACUTE CARE GUIDELINE

### Cervical Lymphadenitis

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope (Staff):</b> | All Emergency Department Clinicians |
| <b>Scope (Area):</b>  | Emergency Department                |

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## Cervical Lymphadenitis

### Assessment

#### Investigations

- The majority of children have mild disease and require no investigations
- Indicated only if systemic symptoms, suspicion of underlying infection or in immunocompromised patient
  - FBC, CRP and Blood cultures are indicated in the unwell child who appears septic

### Management

| Cervical lymphadenitis (acute)   |
|--|
| <b>Reactive Lymph Node (LN)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nodes are usually small, discrete, mildly or non tender</li><li>• LN are most commonly reactive due to viral URTI and may persist for some weeks</li><li>• Management is expectant with clinical review by GP</li></ul>  |
| <b>Acute Bacterial Cervical Lymphadenitis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large (&gt;1cm), discrete, tender cervical LN +/- overlying cellulitis</li><li>• Usually anterolateral neck, may have scalp or dental source</li><li>• <a href="#">Antibiotics</a> - Skin, Soft Tissue and Orthopaedic Infections ChAMP Empiric Guidelines</li><li>• Abscess requires surgical review for incision and drainage</li><li>• In lesions that persist for more than 2 weeks, consider atypical pathogens such as non-tuberculous mycobacteria, Bartonella henselae or non-infectious conditions.</li></ul> |

## Nursing

- Apply emla if patient condition is suggestive of requiring intravenous antibiotics


## Observations

- Baseline observations include heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturations and temperature.
- Minimum of hourly observations should be recorded whilst in the emergency department.
- Any significant changes should be reported immediately to the medical team.

## References

1. WA Health Child and Adolescent Health Service. Skin, Soft Tissue and Orthopaedic Infections ChAMP Empiric Guidelines Version 2, August 2014  
External Review: Christopher Blyth (Infectious Diseases Consultant) September 2015

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