

Ottawa Public Health
 Santé publique

Recipe for Managing G.A.S.

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What is Group A Strep??

Bacteria that is often found in the throat or on the skin – infections are *usually* mild.
 “Strep Throat” or Impetigo



...VS.: INVASIVE Group A Strep

Bacteria get into areas such as blood, muscle or lungs = can be life threatening!



iGAS basics

- **Symptoms of iGAS:** pain, swelling, fever, chills, ILI, muscle aches, macular rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, malaise.



- **Transmission:** -Droplet (cough/sneeze)
-Direct or Indirect contact with respiratory secretions or from skin wound exudates



Case Classification

- **Confirmed Case:**

Isolation of Group A Streptococcus from a sterile site with or without evidence of clinical severity;

OR

Isolation from a non-sterile site with evidence of clinical severity.



Merry Christmas - you have GAS!



- December 16th –
Confirmed iGAS in a client living in a Long-Term Care Facility:
- Isolated from the blood
 - NOT clinically severe

...now what?



The Guidelines

- "Guidelines for the Management of Residents with Group A Streptococcus infection in Long Term Care Facilities"
-Ontario Nursing Home Association, 1997
- "Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease"
- PHAC, 2006





THE GAS RECIPE

- **Step 1** – retrospective chart review
- **Step 2** – Screening: throat and/or wound swabs. →LTCF >100 beds = all in same geographic area + 25%
- **Step 3** - Staff asked about recent GAS infection.

Yes? SWAB.



Cooking with GAS..

→**Issues:** public health closed, labs closed, DOC on vacation..

- 109 swabs collected Dec. 27th
- Delivered to OPHL Dec. 29th
- Couriered to TPHL for Dec. 30th

→**Issues:** Results Jan 1st(Sat) – on-call PHN, no DOC/ADOC, pharmacy closed..



As predicted... ...2 positive swabs

PLAN:

1. chemoprophylaxis and re-screening
2. questionnaire for staff/review of sick calls
3. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE FOR 2 MONTHS!



STAFF



- Given a fact sheet on G.A.S. and information on “The Big Picture”
- Timelines set for swabbing the 2 positive residents

Screening:

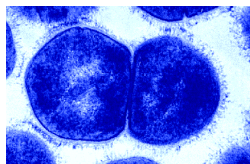
- 9 more swabs collected on staff
- 2 dietary staff members had positive swabs returned - and were treated.



How did this spread?

Were any of the cases related??

T type: NT
SOF: Positive
Emm: 82



SUCCESS!

After the results of the 3rd set of swabs returned negative; the outbreak was finally declared over: Feb 18, 2011.



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Key Ingredients

- Establish an Outbreak Team
- Follow the Recipe (the Guidelines)
- Surveillance
- Good Communication
 - Public Health – MOHLTC
 - Staff members
 - Residents and families

Pat yourself on the back..!!



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Questions about G.A.S.??



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