

## INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS

### Introduction

An uncommon condition in children but has a high morbidity and mortality if untreated.

Underlying risk factors include:

- congenital heart disease
- repaired congenital heart defects
- congenital or acquired valvular heart diseases
- immunocompromised patients with indwelling central catheters

Common symptoms are unexplained remitting fever > 1 week, loss of weight, loss of appetite and myalgia.

*Table 1. Modified Duke Criteria for the Diagnosis of Infective Endocarditis*

Major Criteria	Minor Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blood culture positive: typical microorganisms from two separate blood cultures:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viridans streptococci,</li> <li>Streptococcus bovis, HACEK group,<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Staphylococcus aureus</li> </ul>                             community-acquired enterococci                         </li> <li>• evidence of endocardial involvement on echocardiogram</li> </ul> <p><small>1. fastidious gram negative bacteria from Haemophilus spp, Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans, Cardiobacterium hominis, Eikenella corrodens and Kingella kingae</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• predisposing heart condition, prior heart surgery, indwelling catheter</li> <li>• fever, temperature &gt; 38°C</li> <li>• vascular phenomena:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- major arterial emboli</li> <li>- septic pulmonary infarcts</li> <li>- mycotic aneurysm</li> <li>- intracranial hemorrhage,</li> <li>- conjunctival hemorrhages</li> <li>- Janeway's lesions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• immunologic phenomena:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- glomerulonephritis</li> <li>- Osler's nodes</li> <li>- Roth's spots</li> <li>- rheumatoid factor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• microbiological evidence: positive blood culture not meeting major criterion</li> </ul>

*Table 2. Definition of Infective Endocarditis According to the Modified Duke Criteria*

definite IE	possible IE	rejected IE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pathological criteria                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. microorganisms by                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- culture</li> <li>- histological examination of vegetation or intracardiac abscess specimen</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. pathological lesions with active endocarditis</li> </ol> </li> <li>• clinical criteria:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 major or</li> <li>1 major + 3 minor or</li> <li>5 minor</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 major + 1 minor criteria</li> <li>- 3 minor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• firm alternative diagnosis</li> <li>• resolution of symptoms with antibiotic therapy &lt; 4 days</li> <li>• no pathological evidence of IE at surgery or autopsy</li> <li>• not meet criteria for possible IE</li> </ul>

*IE, Infective Endocarditis*

### Investigations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blood culture</li> <li>• C- Reactive protein/ESR</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full blood count</li> <li>• urine FEME</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest X-ray</li> <li>• echocardiography</li> </ul> |
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## Management

- ensure 3 blood cultures taken before antibiotic therapy.  
Do not wait for echocardiography.
- use empirical antibiotics, until culture results available (refer Table 3) .

Table 3: Antibiotic choices for Infective endocarditis in Children  
(Adapted from Malaysian CPG on antibiotic usage)

Indication	preferred regime	alternative regime
Empirical Therapy For Infective Endocarditis	IV Penicillin G 200 000 U/kg per day in 4–6 divided doses x 4 weeks AND IV/IM Gentamicin 3 mg/kg per day in 3 divided doses x 2 weeks	IV Vancomycin 30 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses x 4–6 weeks AND IV/IM Gentamicin 3 mg/kg per day in 3 divided doses x 2 weeks
<i>Streptococcus viridans</i> endocarditis	IV Vancomycin 30 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses x 4–6 weeks AND IV/IM Gentamicin 3 mg/kg per day in 3 divided doses x 2 weeks	IV Vancomycin 30 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses x 4–6 weeks AND IV/IM Gentamicin 3 mg/kg per day in 3 divided doses x 2 weeks
<i>Enterococcus</i> endocarditis	IV Penicillin G 300 000 U/kg/day in 4–6 divided doses x 4 - 6weeks AND IV Gentamicin 3 mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses x 4 - 6 weeks	
Methicillin sensitive <i>Staphylococcus</i> endocarditis	IV Cloxacillin 200mg/kg/day in 4-6 divided doses x 6 weeks +/- IV/IM Gentamicin 3mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses x 3 - 5 days	
Penicillin allergy	IV Cefazolin 100mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses x 6 weeks	IV Vancomycin 40 mg/kg /day in 2 - 3 divided doses x 4-6 weeks
Methicillin Resistance	IV Vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day in 2 - 4 divided doses x 6 weeks	
Culture- Negative Endocarditis	IV Ampicillin-sulbactam 300mg/kg/day in 4-6 divided doses x 4-6 weeks AND IV Gentamicin 3mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses x 4-6 weeks	IV Vancomycin 40 mg/kg /day in 2 - 3 divided doses x 4-6 weeks AND IV/IM Gentamicin 3mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses x 4-6 weeks AND IV Ciprofloxacin 20-30 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses x 4-6 weeks
Fungal Endocarditis <i>Candida spp</i> or <i>Aspergillus</i>	IV Amphotericin B > 6 weeks AND Valve replacement surgery AND Long-term (lifelong) therapy with oral azole	

*Table 4. Guidelines on IE prophylaxis*

<b>Endocarditis prophylaxis recommended</b>	<b>Endocarditis prophylaxis not recommended</b>
<p><i>High-risk category</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prosthetic cardiac valves</li> <li>previous bacterial endocarditis</li> <li>complex cyanotic congenital heart disease</li> <li>surgical systemic pulmonary shunts or conduits</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderate-risk category</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>other congenital cardiac malformations (other than above and below)</li> <li>acquired valvar dysfunction (e.g. rheumatic heart disease)</li> <li>hypertrophic cardiomyopathy</li> <li>mitral valve prolapse with regurgitation</li> </ul>	<p><i>Negligible-risk category</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>isolated secundum atrial septal defect</li> <li>repaired atrial and ventricular septal defects, patent ductus arteriosus (after 6 mths)</li> <li>mitral valve prolapse without regurgitation</li> <li>functional, or innocent heart murmurs</li> <li>previous Kawasaki disease without valvar dysfunction</li> <li>previous rheumatic fever without valvar dysfunction</li> <li>cardiac pacemakers and implanted defibrillators</li> </ul>

*Table 5. Common procedures that require IE prophylaxis*

<p><i>Oral, dental procedures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>extractions, periodontal procedures</li> <li>placement of orthodontic bands (but not brackets)</li> <li>intraligamentary local anaesthetic injections</li> <li>prophylactic cleaning of teeth</li> </ul> <p><i>Respiratory procedures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy</li> <li>surgical operations involving respiratory mucosa</li> <li>rigid bronchoscopy</li> <li>flexible bronchoscopy with biopsy</li> </ul>	<p><i>Gastrointestinal procedures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sclerotherapy for esophageal varices</li> <li>oesophageal stricture dilatation</li> <li>endoscopic retrograde cholangiography</li> <li>biliary tract surgery</li> <li>surgical operations involving intestinal mucosa</li> </ul> <p><i>Genitourinary procedures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cystoscopy</li> <li>urethral dilation</li> </ul>
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*Table 6. Antibiotic guidelines for IE prophylaxis*

*Endocarditis Prophylactic Regimens for Dental, Oral, Respiratory Tract and Esophageal Procedures*

**Standard general prophylaxis**

Oral Amoxicillin 50 mg/kg (max 2 Gm)  
one hour before procedure  
or

IV/IM Ampicillin 50 mg/kg (max 2 Gm)

**Penicillin allergy**

Oral Clindamycin 20 mg/kg (max 600 mg)  
or

Oral Cephalexin 50 mg/kg (max 2 Gm)  
or

Oral Azithromycin/clarithromycin 50 mg/kg (max 500 mg)  
or

Oral Erythromycin 20 mg/kg (max 3 Gm)  
or

IV Clindamycin 20 mg/kg (max 600 mg)

*Note: give oral therapy 1 hour before procedure ;*

*IV therapy 30 mins before procedure*