Bacterial/Non-Bacterial Scorecard for Sore Throat:

Predictive scorecard for bacterial/non bacteria infection

This scorecard is only to be used in patients presenting with sore throat.

Does this patient have a sore or painful throat?  Yes □  No □

If this patient has a sore throat, continue to use this scorecard by answering the questions below.

If this patient does not have a sore throat, do not use this scorecard.

1. Age of patient from 5 years to <16 years of age  YES / NO
2. Season of infection (From late autumn to early spring)  YES / NO
3. Evidence of acute pharyngitis on physical examination (Erythema / Oedema / Exudes, etc.)  YES / NO
4. History of exposure to Group A streptococcal infection (GAS)  YES / NO
5. Tender, enlarged (>1cm) anterior cervical lymph nodes  YES / NO
6. Fever ≥38.5 °C  YES / NO
7. Absence of cough***  YES / NO
8. Duration of illness ≥5 days  YES / NO
9. Presence of purulent nasopharyngeal discharge or sinusitis  YES / NO
10. No change in voice/ no hoarseness of voice***  YES / NO

To calculate BS or NBS: score each criterion as plus 1 point for ‘Yes’ and minus one for ‘No’. The sum of the number of ‘pluses’ on the right ‘Yes-axis’ is equal to Bacterial score (BS). For example, if all these criteria were present, a patient would have a BS of 8 and a NBS of 2 as criteria 7 and 10 were negatively asked questions. If criteria 7 and 10 were absent and all the other eight criteria were present, a patient will have ten ‘pluses’ in the right ‘Yes-axis’ and an BS of 10 and an NBS of ‘0’.

The sum of the number of ‘pluses’ on the left ‘No-axis’ is equal to Non-Bacterial score (NBS). If all the criteria were present, a patient will have an NBS of 2 and a BS of 8 because criteria 7 and 10 were negatively asked questions. If criteria 7 and 10 were present and all the other eight criteria were absent, a patient will have ten ‘pluses’ in the left ‘No-axis’ and an NBS of 10 and a BS of ‘0’.

Calculate the Bacterial/Non-bacterial ratio (BS/NBS) = bacterial (positive-Yes) score/ non-bacterial (negative-No) score.

If BS/NBS > 1 and BS ≥ 5 = more likely bacterial infection; BS/NBS < 1 and NBS ≥ 6 or BS ≤ 4 = more likely non-bacterial infection.

*** Negatively worded statements