Reviewer's report

Title: A survey of the management of urinary tract infection in children in primary care

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Reviewer: Ubirajara Barroso Jr.

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I find this paper valuable in that it undertakes to 1), evaluate the current practices among family doctors regarding diagnosis and management of urinary tract infection (UTI) in children and 2), evaluate these practices in comparison with recently published guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). However, I feel that the questionnaire is an essential component in this type of study and should have been included.

Respondents are aware that is necessary to investigate UTI in children with unexplained fever. However, I feel that the questions need to be more carefully structured in order to avoid biased responses. The same can be said regarding the other predisposing factor for UTI. Most respondents advise the use of a urine collection bag for young children because it is more sensitive to the dipstick test. Although NICE recommends the clean catch, I would like to underline the fact that this technique is somewhat controversial and that free catch is not always possible in this population. I believe that it is not a poor choice to employ a bag collection for dipstick and fast microscopy while subsequently resorting to urethral catheterization when the tests are positive.

Discretionary Revisions

I am not surprised that there was a great variation among respondents in terms of how they investigate UTI because there is a great variety of literature published about polices for different age groups. In potty trained kids I recommend uroflowmetry and void diary. I also believe that it is noteworthy to consider that the use of DMSA in acute phases of infections is very controversial. Likewise when to use VCUG in young kids is not established. This demonstrates how difficult is to address all these issues in a guideline.

Moreover, I concur with the emphasis these papers place upon the necessity of educating physicians about the short term use of antibiotics for low UTI.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests