

ACUTE RHEUMATIC FEVER & RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE are PREVENTABLE and NOTIFIABLE

STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

Everyone at high risk must be treated with penicillin.



Sore throat (pharyngitis)

Skin sores (pyoderma/impetigo)

ACUTE RHEUMATIC FEVER

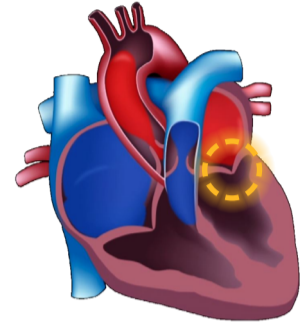
Treat with penicillin. Symptoms may be subtle and can include:



fever
joint pain
heart murmur
chorea

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE

Damage to heart valves following ARF. Often without symptoms until severe. Requires long term care.



INVESTIGATIONS FOR ARF

Admit to hospital

BLOODS - WCC / ESR / CRP (blood cultures if febrile)
BLOODS - ASO / anti-DNase B titres
ECG / CXR / Echocardiogram
Throat/skin sore swab - culture for *strep A*

PRIORITY 1

- Severe RHD of any valve
- High-risk post-valve surgery patients
- ≥ 3 episodes of ARF within the past 5 years
- Children ≤ 5 years of age with ARF or RHD
- Pregnant women with RHD

Every 6 Months

- Specialist review
- Echocardiogram
- Medical review
- Dental review (within 3 months of diagnosis)

(If pregnant, see care pathway)

PRIORITY 2

- Moderate RHD of any valve
- Mild RHD involving both aortic and mitral valves
- Moderate-risk post-valve surgery patients

Every 6 Months

- Medical review

Every 12 Months

- Specialist review
- Echocardiogram
- Dental review (within 3 months of diagnosis)

PRIORITY 3

- Mild RHD involving only a single valve
- ARF (probable or definite) currently prescribed secondary prophylaxis
- Borderline RHD currently prescribed secondary prophylaxis
- Low-risk post-valve surgery patients

Every 12 Months

- Medical review
- Dental review

1-3 yearly specialist review

Echocardiogram

≤ 21 years age: 1-2 yearly,
> 21 years age: 2-3 yearly

PRIORITY 4

- History of ARF (possible, probable or definite) and completed secondary prophylaxis
- Borderline RHD not on secondary prophylaxis
- Resolved RHD and completed secondary prophylaxis

Every 12 Months

- Medical review
- Dental review

Specialist review and Echocardiogram:

at 1, 3 and 5 years post cessation of secondary prophylaxis (or following diagnosis of Borderline RHD)

Penicillin Injections

EVERY 21-28 DAYS AFTER ARF



RHD CONTROL PROGRAMS

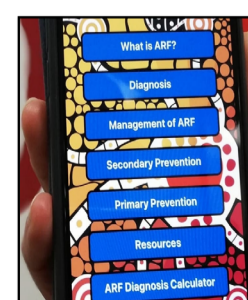
NT	Top End	08 8922 8454
	Central	08 8951 6909
QLD	Cairns	1300 135 854
		07 4226 5544
WA	Perth	1300 622 745
SA	Adelaide	08 7425 7146
NSW	Sydney	1300 066 055 (within NSW)

SUPPORT FOR CLINICIANS

GUIDELINE



APP



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