Management of Bacterial Meningitis in Children and Young People

Incorporates NICE Bacterial Meningitis and Meningococcal Septicaemia Guideline CG102. Distributed in partnership with NICE

**Antibiotics for confirmed meningitis**
- Meningococcus: IV Ceftriaxone for 7 days
- H influenzae: IV Ceftriaxone for 10 days
- Group B Streptococcus: IV Ceftriaxone for 14 days
- L monocytogenes: IV Amoxicillin or Ampicillin for 21 days in neonates, plus IV Gentamicin for at least the first 7 days
- Gram-negative bacilli: IV Ceftriaxone for 21 days (unless alternative dictated by local antimicrobial resistance patterns or specific sensitivities)

**Antibiotics for unconfirmed meningitis**
- IV Ceftriaxone (or Cefotaxime unless contraindicated) for a further 14 days.
- Empiric antibiotics for suspected meningitis: IV Ceftriaxone unless contraindicated

**Contraindications to Ceftriaxone**
- Moribund state
- Irregular respiration (e.g. Cheyne–Stokes breathing)
- Platelet count below 100 x 10⁹/µL
- Clotting study results (if obtained) outside the normal range
- Pain only.
- Local superficial infection at LP site

**Contraindications to Lumbar Puncture**
- Clinical or radiological signs of raised intracranial pressure
- Shock
- Local superficial infection at LP site
- Respiratory insufficiency.

**Indications for CT scan in children with suspected bacterial meningitis**
- CT scan cannot reliably detect raised intracranial pressure. This should be assessed clinically.
- Perform a CT scan to detect other intracranial pathologies if QCS all or focal neurological signs in the absence of an explanation for the clinical features.

**Repeat LP in neonates after starting treatment if:**
- Persistent or re-emergent fever, new clinical findings (especially neurological findings), deteriorating clinical condition, or persistently abnormal inflammatory markers

**Long-term management:**
Before discharge consider need for after care, discuss potential long-term effects with parents, arrange follow-up, etc.

**Further copies from:**
www.meningitis.org
Further copies from www.meningitisnow.org/recovery
www.meningitisresearch.org/assets/x/56050

**Notify public health, prophylaxis see CG101 on Meningococcal disease algorithm; Long-term management**