

ACUTE GASTROEN- TERITIS:

Drugs

- Antibiotics are:-
 - ⇒ usually not necessary
 - ⇒ used only in certain bacterial AGE
- Antidiarrhoeal drugs may cause significant side effects and are not recommended in children

References

'Diarrhoea treatment guidelines' by USAID; UNICEF; World Health Organization

Prepared by

Ward Paediatric 4

Telephone No: 79492355

Any Enquiries Please Contact

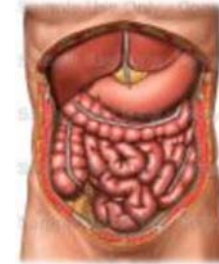
Perkembangan Kejururawatan

Tingkat Bawah Menara Utama,
Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya
59100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03- 7949 2376



PUSAT PERUBATAN UM

Acute Gastroenteritis (AGE)

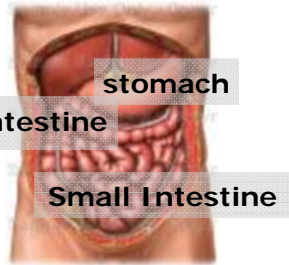


Hak Milik Pusat Perubatan
Universiti Malaya

ACUTE GASTROENTERITIS:

Definition

- Inflammation of the intestine including the stomach and small intestine



Cause

Infection by: -

- Virus (more common)
- Bacteria

Symptoms

- Diarrhoea (frequent loose or watery stool)
- Vomiting
- Reduced feeding
- Fever (Temperature $>37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$)



Complication

Most important complication is **dehydration**

Symptoms and signs of dehydration: -

- Dry skin, sunken eyes, dry lips and oral mucosa, reduce skin turgor
- Passing less urine or dark coloured urine
- Tired and not active



Treatment

- Rehydration
 - ⇒ Oral rehydration salt
 - ⇒ Intravenous fluids
- Proper hygiene
- Maintain nutrition
- Drugs

Rehydration

- ⇒ Oral rehydration salt (ORS) is the safest and effective way to rehydrate a child
- ⇒ Even children with vomiting may be able to tolerate enough oral rehydration (given in small sips)
- ⇒ Isotonic drinks are not equivalent to ORS
- ⇒ Other method of rehydration includes nasogastric tube or intravenous fluids.
- ⇒ These methods may be required if the child cannot tolerate oral rehydration salt

Nutrition

- Nutrition is important during AGE
- The child should continue to be breastfed if tolerated
- Children on infant formula should continue feeding without diluting the feeds
- Soy formula does NOT help reduce diarrhoea in the absence of lactose intolerance which is uncommon



Hygiene

- Proper hand washing (ie after changing diapers) will reduce spread of the infection.
- Proper hygiene practice to clean feeding bottles and washable toys will help prevent recurrence of AGE.



Bottle hygiene

- After feeding, wash the bottle under running water.
- Boil bottle, teat and cap into boiling water for 5 minutes.

