Evidence review: prevention and management of neutropenic sepsis in cancer patients

Arber 2000

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Clinical features and settings	Patients (adult or child) with cancer admitted to a single haematology ward with fever (> 38.3° C or > 38.0° C on consecutive readings) and neutropenia (ANC <0.5X10 ⁹ /L). Study period was 1997.
Participants	143 FN episodes in 71 patients. Mean age 40 years. 87% had haematological malignancy.
Study design	Retrospective case series. Consecutive sample. Switzerland.
Target condition and	Cause of fever - classified as
reference standard(s)	Invasive bacterial infection (positive blood culture unlikely to be due to contamination)
	Fungal infection: positive by culture, histology or chest CT findings
	Viral infection: CMV-antgenemia positive
	Probable infection: fever, positive bacterial cultures from body fluids plus clinical signs or symptoms of infection
	Acute GvHD: graded using the Glucksberg criteria.
	Drug related: fever associated with a certain drug and resolving after discontinuation
	Transfusion related: fever accompanied by shivering/bronchospasm appearing within 2 hours of transfusion
	Unexplained fever.
Index and comparator tests	CRP, measured on day 1 of fever and daily during follow-up. Median and range of CRP values were reported according to cause of fever.
Follow-up	
Notes	