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

Katz 1992

Clinical features and settings	Children (< 18 years) with cancer, fever (\geq 38.5°C or >38°C for at least 6 hours) and neutropenia (ANC \leq 0.5 X 10 ⁹ /L) admitted to a single institution. Study period was 1989 to 1990.
Participants	122 FN episodes in 74 children. 82/122 episodes were in patients with haematological malignancies and 40/122 in patients with solid tumours. Mean age was 6.3 years (range 2 months to 17 years).
Study design	Consecutive prospective observational study. USA
Target condition and	Bacteraemia: defined as positive blood culture and toxic appearance at
reference standard(s)	presentation - with or without cardiovascular instability.
,	Documented infection: clinically or microbiologically documented infection
Index and comparator	CRP was measure at the initial evaluation of the patient following admission
tests	(between 8 and 24 hours following the onset of fever).
	CRP, thresholds 20 mg/l, 50 mg/l and 100 mg/l
Follow-up	Followup for reference standard was not reported. A random sample of 19 patients had a second CRP measurement between 11 and 96 days (median 38 days) after hospitalisation for the FN episode.
Notes	Sensitivity of CRP for bacteraemia at a threshold of 50 mg/l is not consistent with other thresholds (I have not included it in the analysis).