

KASIC NEWSLETTER

Issue Eleven, Volume One

*Pictured Top: Downtown Paducah
Attribution to Paducah Mainstreet*



Penicillin Allergy Challenges Made Easier!

Penicillin allergies are commonly reported by patients, but most reported allergies are either not true allergies or low risk and patients can safely receive penicillins. Documentation of a penicillin allergy often drives the use of alternative antibiotics that are broader spectrum, more toxic, less efficacious, and/or more expensive.

The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) was recently published in JAMA Internal Medicine and demonstrates that a direct oral challenge with a penicillin is non-inferior to skin testing followed by direct oral challenge for allergy delabeling in patients with low-risk penicillin allergies. Low-risk penicillin allergies were identified using the PEN-FAST clinical decision rule. The findings of this RCT supports the expansion of allergy challenge practices by bypassing skin testing availability as a barrier to allergy challenges.

1. Copaesu AM, Vogrin S, James F, et al. Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy: The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Intern Med.* Published online July 17, 2023. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.2986

[Read more about PALACE RCT Here](#)

Expect Seasonal "Up-Tick" in Tick-Borne Illnesses

Seasonal tick-borne illness can range from self-limiting reactions to critical disease. In the state of Kentucky, the local tick fauna predominantly includes the American Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick, and Blacklegged Tick. It is important to note each tick carries different tick-borne illnesses and the traditional rash may not always present. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is the most common bacterial tick-borne illness in Kentucky and 90% of cases present with a maculopapular rash while Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis commonly present without rashes.

If bitten by a tick, aside from a possible rash, signs and symptoms to monitor for include headache and flu-like symptoms presenting after 2-14 days since the bite. Although tick bites are on the rise this year according to the CDC, the major summer peak has passed for 2023, but a seasonal 'up-tick' of cases is expected to occur in October.



Want to learn more about tick-borne illnesses, spotting rashes, and reactions?

[Click here](#) to watch a short video presentation



KASIC Cases

Each week, a fictional case describing a common antimicrobial stewardship opportunity is posted on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Participants are encouraged to answer the poll first and then review the best answer along with an explanation.

Ready to test your antimicrobial stewardship knowledge? Try out the latest case:

An 85 year old male with dementia lives in a nursing home & has a fall. Staff noted malodorous urine earlier today.

A UA is done and shows bacteria and pyuria. He denies dysuria and suprapubic/flank pain. What is the best approach to managing this patient?

- A) Urine culture and start antibiotic
- B) Overserve off antibiotic

Click here for Grand Rounds Information

Latest Clinical Education Pearls: Click to Read!

Know your Antibiotic: Ceftazidime Coverage Conundrum

Stop Sweltering over Linezolid and Serotonin Syndrome

Aminopenicillins for Enterococcal Cystitis: Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks

Valproic Acid and Carbapenems: What's Causing VPA to be MIA?

Norton Infectious Diseases Institute Grand Rounds Educational Series

Click to Watch: Gram-Negative Bacteria in Blood Cultures

Click to Watch: Infectious Gastroenteritis: A Microbiology Case

Click to Watch: ASP in Gram-Negative Bacteremia: Shorter is Better

Coming soon! KASIC First Year Report

To be published in August 2023, KASIC is unveiling a year of remarkable achievements, metrics, and impactful initiatives that fuel innovation and drive progress in preventing antimicrobial resistance across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Stay tuned for a comprehensive overview of our pioneering efforts in antimicrobial stewardship.

Click here for the BEST answer

Read more cases here

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