



**Clinical Guideline for Evaluation/Treatment of Febrile Infant: 22-28 DAYS OF AGE**

**INCLUSION CRITERIA:**  
 Well-appearing  
 Full term gestation (≥37 weeks)  
 NO chronic medical conditions  
 NO evident source of bacterial infection (eg, cellulitis, omphalitis, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis)  
 Temperature ≥38C (100.4F) at home or healthcare facility  
 Mild upper respiratory symptoms without respiratory distress

**OBTAIN:**

- BLOOD STUDIES: Blood Culture, CBC, CMP, Procalcitonin and/or CRP
- URINE STUDIES: Catheterized urine culture and urinalysis
- RESPIRATORY FILM ARRAY

**HSV MUST BE CONSIDERED THRU 6 WEEKS OF AGE**

**HSV RISK FACTORS**

- Maternal history of genital HSV lesions
- Household contacts with HSV
- Vesicles
- Seizure
- Hypothermia
- Elevated ALT
- Thrombocytopenia
- CSF pleocytosis

**HSV WORKUP**

1. Send HSV Studies:
  - Eye, nose, mouth, rectum swab for PCR
  - Blood HSV PCR
  - Vesicle fluid HSV PCR (if present)
  - CSF HSV PCR
2. Start acyclovir 20mg/kg every 8 hours

**\*INFLAMMATORY MARKER +**

- Procalcitonin>0.5ng/mL
- Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) >4000 per mm<sup>3</sup> OR <1000 per mm<sup>3</sup>
- CRP>2mg/dL

**\*INFLAMMATORY MARKER +**

**SHARED DECISION-MAKING DISCUSSION WITH PARENTS ABOUT LUMBAR PUNCTURE. LP PERFORMED?**

-Perform lumbar puncture and send for CSF culture, cell count, CSF film array, glucose/protein

-Parenteral antibiotics:

- Ampicillin 75mg/kg every 6 hours
- Ceftazidime 50mg/kg every 8 hours

-Observe in hospital

**-DO NOT GIVE ANTIBIOTICS**

**-Observe in hospital**

**Pathogen or source identified?**

**TREAT INFECTION**

If all Cultures negative and HSV PCR negative (if sent) at 24-36 hours AND infant is clinically well:

1. Discontinue antibiotics and acyclovir (if initiated)
2. Discharge infant within 36 hours

Reference:

Pantell et al. Clinical Practice Guideline: Evaluation and Management of Well-Appearing Febrile Infants 8 to 60 Days Old. Pediatrics August 2021, 148 (2) e2021052228; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052228>