



The 4-point Centor criteria to stratify adult patients according to risk of group A streptococcal pharyngitis

- Fever: subjective or measured $>100.5^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Absence of cough
- Tender anterior cervical lymphadenopathy
- Tonsillar exudates

Consider patients with 0 or 1 criteria at sufficiently low risk ($<3\%$) that they should neither be tested for group A streptococcal pharyngitis nor treated with antibiotics. Consider empirical antibiotic treatment for adults with 4 criteria who are at sufficiently high risk ($>40\%$) of group A streptococcal pharyngitis. Evaluate adults with 2, 3, and perhaps 4 criteria with an rapid antigen detection test.

From **Centor RM, Witherspoon JM, Dalton HP, Brody CE, Link K.** The diagnosis of strep throat in adults in the emergency room. *Med Decis Making.* 1981;1:239-46. [PMID: 6763125]