

Practice Point

Salmonella infections in Canadian children

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Nontyphoidal Salmonella (NTS) infections are primarily transmitted by contaminated food or water or contact with carrier animals (particularly reptiles), and present with diarrhea. Antibiotics do not decrease the severity or duration of diarrhea and may increase the incidence of NTS carriage, so they should only be used with suspected or proven bacteremia or invasive infection. Typhoid/paratyphoid fever manifests as bacteremia within 60 days of travel to resource-poor countries and presents with fever and variable abdominal complaints. Therefore, blood cultures are indicated for unexplained fever and a relevant travel history. When blood cultures are positive or when a child is unwell pending blood culture results, ceftriaxone is indicated. A switch to oral antibiotics (usually azithromycin) is often possible after blood cultures have cleared and the child is improved.

Keywords: *Nontyphoidal Salmonella; Typhoid/paratyphoid fever*

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