

RHEUMATIC FEVER IN CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Acute rheumatic fever (ARF) is an autoimmune inflammatory process that develops as a sequel of streptococcal infection. Persons who have experienced an episode of ARF are predisposed to recurrence following subsequent (rheumatogenic) group A streptococcal infections. The most significant complication of ARF is rheumatic heart disease, which usually occurs after repeated bouts of acute illness. Rheumatic fever mainly affects children ages 6 -15, and occurs approximately 20 days after strep throat or scarlet fever. Several major and minor criteria have been developed to help standardize rheumatic fever diagnosis. Anti-inflammatory medications such as aspirin or corticosteroids reduce inflammation to help manage acute rheumatic fever.

KEYWORDS: Carditis, Subcutaneous Nodules, Sydenham's Chorea, Erythema Marginatum, Arthralgia