Update on Rheumatic Fever Prevention and Control

Rheumatic Heart Disease screening-a population health perspective

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Orientation- RHD screening

• Screening for previously unidentified RHD heart disease in children/young people
• Involves using portable ECHO to identify children/young people with cardiac changes that may be consistent with RHD
• Individuals are then referred to tertiary health services for fuller assessment, diagnosis and appropriate treatment.
• Population screening is not just about case detection, changing the health outcomes of people with RHD
  - Reduce disease progression through preventing recurrences of ARF
  - Reducing premature cardiac deaths
Image source: Te Papa
Neuroblastoma screening

Screening starts

- New cases
- Deaths

Time
Neuroblastoma screening
Screening of Infants and Mortality Due to Neuroblastoma

BACKGROUND
Neuroblastoma, the most common extracranial solid tumor that occurs in early childhood, can be identified in the preclinical stages by the detection of catecholamines in the urine. However, it is unknown whether routine screening for neuroblastoma reduces mortality due to this disease.

METHODS
Through their parents, we offered screening for neuroblastoma at three weeks and six months of age to all 476,654 children born in the province of Quebec, Canada, during a five-year period (May 1, 1989, through April 30, 1994). The participation rate was 52 percent. The rate of death due to neuroblastoma was determined and compared with the rates in several unscreened control populations born during the same period.

RESULTS
Among children younger than eight years of age in the Quebec cohort, there were 22 deaths due to neuroblastoma: the cumulative (at 8E) mortality rate due to neuroblastoma was 4.78/100,000 children over a period of nine years. The standardised incidence...
• The condition is a suitable candidate for screening
• There is a suitable test
• There is effective and accessible treatment
• There is high quality evidence (ideally RCTs) that a screening programme is effective in reducing mortality or morbidity
• The potential benefit outweighs the potential harms
• The health care system is capable of supporting the necessary elements of the screening pathway
• There is consideration of social and ethical issues
• There is consideration of cost benefit issues
Should we screen in the absence of evidence of effectiveness?
• Cost-effectiveness and benefits/ harms
• Opportunity cost
• Beyond reasonable doubt
• Impact of decreasing RF incidence
• Underlying assumptions
Population screening: the why, what & how?

What conditions do we screen for in New Zealand? What should we screen for? How do we decide? Is screening even ethical? How do we implement, monitor and evaluate screening programmes? What is new on the screening horizon?

Register now for this 2-day interactive workshop to explore these critical questions, hear new ideas and broaden your understanding of screening across all disciplines.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
This course will be led by Dr Caroline Shaw and Professor Diana Serfas, Public Health Physicians and epidemiologists at the University of Otago, Wellington. This course is run biennially and is rated extremely highly among the many who attend.

Thursday 18 - Friday 19 February 2016
University of Otago, Wellington | Mein St | Newtown | Wellington

Early bird registration closes 18 December 2015

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