

LANCE ROSE 126

History of the present illness: This 2 year old boy presents with the history of fever and abdominal pains for the past 4 days. He was fine before that. First he lost his appetite and developed a low fever. Then the fever rose as he became more ill. He seems to localize the pain to his abdomen although it is hard to be sure. He vomited a small amount once. He has had no diarrhea at all.

Past medical and social history: The child is the sixth of six children. He has been in good health until now. He is still being breast fed although he also eats table food and drinks from his siblings' glasses. He has had no immunizations, has no allergies, and is on no medication.

Physical exam: The child is miserable; he does not like to be handled. Vital signs: T 102.6 rectal; P 130; R 30; Weight 10 kg. He has no rashes. His head is normal size and shape. Pupils are equal, round, and responsive to light. Corneas are clear. The whites of the eyes are white. Inside the lower lids is quite red. The nose is normal shape and without discharge. The ears are normal in appearance. The mouth appears moist. The tongue has a yellowish coating. The tonsils are normal size and color. There are a few enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, in front. The thyroid is



not enlarged. The patient can move his neck in all directions; one cannot determine the presence or absence of pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. The abdomen is generally distended when he lies flat. Bowel sounds are absent. Liver and spleen are not enlarged. The abdomen is tender all over but there does not appear to be any rebound tenderness. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the groin. The kidney area in back is not tender. Arms and legs show no swelling. The patient can move his limbs in all directions and does so spontaneously. Respond.

Options:

Wait and see how he does.

Treat him with _____ medication.

Send him and his mother to a local clinic (\$22); write referral letter.

Send him and his mother to a private hospital (\$150); write referral letter.

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Setting and past history:

What is the family home environment like? It is a rural area that grows ginger as a cash crop. The family is middle class by local standards.

What is the sanitation situation? The sanitation is poor. There are few and ill-kept outhouses. The water supply is not protected.

Is the child's mother pregnant again? No, she is not.

Has he been weaned? No

Present illness:

Is there any discoloration of the tongue? Yes, there is a yellowish scum on it.

Does the child play at all? No, he just lies around and cries.

Will he drink? Yes

Will he nurse? Very little; his mother's breasts are drying.

Is the fever sustained or is it up and down? It is sustained.

Is the patient constipated? Yes, he is. He hasn't had a bowel movement since this started.

Does he appear to know his parents and siblings? They cannot tell; he is just too miserable to care.

Urinalysis: negative except for ketones which are strongly positive.

