

Appendix 1. Demographic information, symptoms and presence of group A streptococci (GAS) in included patients

	Site				P value
	Hinchinbrook (H)	Mackay (M)	Mount Isa (I)	All sites	
Number of included patients	78	101	104	283	NA
Female sex % (n)	62 (48)	62 (64)	63 (64)	62 (176)	0.96
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander % (n)	7.7 (6)	9.0 (9/100)	43 (44/103)	21 (59/281)	1.1×10^{-10}
Age in years					
Mean (standard deviation)	33 (22)	24 (16)	21 (17)*	25 (19) [†]	H > M, P = 0.003
Median (interquartile range)	26 (16–46)	22 (11–33)	19 (6–33)*	22 (11–36) [†]	H > I
Min–max	1–96	2–68	0–65*	0–96 [†]	P < 0.0001
Symptoms and signs					
Absence of cough % (n)	49 (38)	48 (48)	32 (33)	42 (119)	0.027
Tonsillar exudate % (n)	27 (21)	24 (24)	23 (24)	24 (69)	0.82
Tender cervical lymph nodes % (n)	46 (36)	33 (33)	34 (35)	37 (104)	0.13
Fever >38 °C % (n)	32 (25)	39 (39)	39 (39)	36 (103)	0.91
Number of Centor score registered					
Centor score 0 % (n)	15 (12)	18 (18)	34 (35)	23 (65)	
Centor score 1 % (n)	33 (26)	39 (39)	29 (30)	34 (95)	
Centor score 2 % (n)	36 (28)	28 (29)	20 (21)	28 (78)	0.055
Centor score 3 % (n)	13 (10)	13 (13)	13 (13)	13 (36)	
Centor score 4 % (n)	2.6 (2)	2.0 (2)	4.8 (5)	3.2 (9)	
Presence of GAS in the throat % (n)	18 (14)	24 (24/100)	48 (47/99)	31 (85/277)	0.000025

*Due to missing data at the Mount Isa site, n = 103

[†]Due to missing data at the Mount Isa site, n = 282**Appendix 2. Change of antibiotic prescribing pattern after result of test for group A streptococci was available**

		Post-test antibiotic prescribing											
		Hinchinbrook			Mackay			Mount Isa			All sites*		
Pre-test antibiotic prescribing	PCR test for GAS	No	YD	YI	No	YD	YI	No	YD	YI	No % (n)	YD % (n)	YI % (n)
No	Negative	43/43	0/43	0/43	33/36	2/36	1/36	35/35	0/35	0/35	97 (111/114)	1.8 (2/114)	0.88 (1/114)
	Positive	0/5	0/5	5/5	0/5	0/5	5/5	1/24	0/24	23/24	2.9 (1/34)	0 (0/34)	97 (33/34)
YD	Negative	5/5	0/5	0/5	18/21	3/21	0/21	0/2	1/2	1/2	82 (23/28)	14 (4/28)	3.6 (1/28)
	Positive	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/9	0/9	9/9	0/1	1/1	0/1	0 (0/10)	10 (1/10)	90 (9/10)
YI	Negative	10/16	1/16	5/16	4/18	1/18	13/18	10/15	0/15	5/15	49 (24/49)	4.1 (2/49)	47 (23/49)
	Positive	0/9	0/9	9/9	0/10	0/10	10/10	0/22	0/22	22/22	0 (0/41)	0 (0/41)	100 (41/41)

* Changes from pre- to post-test are marked bold.

GAS, group A streptococci; No, no antibiotics; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; YD, antibiotics prescribed delayed; YI, antibiotics prescribed for immediate consumption