Long-Term Health Outcomes of Patients Evaluated for Unexplained Fevers in a Pediatric Infectious Diseases Clinic

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BACKGROUND

Retrospective chart review of patients referred to a pediatric infectious diseases clinic for unexplained fevers from 2008-2012

Majority of Patients Had No Established Diagnosis or Self-Limited Illnesses

No studies describing long-term health outcomes of patients referred for unexplained fevers in last 18 years

METHODS

Identified patients referred for unexplained fevers between 2008-2012 with no specific diagnosis or self-limited illnesses

Scripted telephone interview with parents/guardians

Patients diagnosed with PFAPA interviewed separately

Telephone numbers identified using electronic medical record, primary care physician, and emergency contact

At least 3 attempts

Descriptive analysis

RESULTS

Characteristics of Patients Referred for Unexplained Fevers

Long-term Health Outcomes of Patients Referred for Unexplained Fevers Who Received No Initial Diagnosis

Characteristics of Patients Who Report Continued Fevers

CONCLUSIONS

Most children evaluated for unexplained fevers in a pediatric infectious diseases clinic who received no initial diagnosis remained well after an average 7.5 years to follow-up

No children were diagnosed with infection, immunodeficiency, or cancer

Children who reportedly continue to have unexplained fevers but have no fever-related diagnosis warrant further study, with particular attention to their families’ health and illness beliefs

REFERENCES


