Uncommon Infectious Disease Presentations and a Reminder that Quality Improvement Is Meant to Improve Care

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In this issue of Pediatric Annals, co-guest editors Drs. Julia Rosebush and Ram Yogev, two dedicated infectious disease pediatricians, and their collaborating authors present some uncommon infectious disease presentations that are now potentially becoming more common in general pediatric practice. I found each article helpful in reminding me to consider infection in the presentation of everything from BRUE (brief resolved unexplained episodes) to cough and fever. That statement may sound obvious but I think, after reading these articles, if you have not seen these presentations, you might consider adding them to your differential diagnosis the next time you have an infant, child, adolescent, or young adult present in your clinic, office, emergency department, or pediatric floor.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

During the past 5 years, I have been working with the pediatric residents, fellows, and now the neonatal intensive care unit nurses and neonatal nurse practitioners on quality improvement (QI) projects, some of which have been presented and published.1-3 QI is meant to be a quantifiable measure of clinical care growth for patients and their families. When I was asked more than 30 years ago to set up our first QI departmental committee at Evanston Hospital in the Department of Pediatrics (Evanston, IL), we identified problem areas (needs analysis), shaped a dedicated multidisciplinary committee to discuss the problem, devised methods to intervene, studied the results of the intervention, and then worked to further improve the Plan Do Study Act cycle.4,5 Wherever you practice and no matter what your role is in your group, section, division or department, QI is here to stay in some form. As frustrating and aggravating as it can be to clinicians, the primary goal we all should remember is that it is meant to improve care.6 As clinicians and educators, let’s do our best to view QI from a “glass half full” perspective so that we are providing the best possible care to our patients in every situation.

REFERENCES