Medical Consultation

Medical consultation represents one of the backbones of the services performed by physicians every day, and surprisingly, little is written about the art of medical consultation. At the SNTC, medical consultation plays a pivotal role in our region and we have identified the following as core elements for the consultations that we provide:

Rapid Response Times - The pace of medical practice is fast, and while there are few “TB emergencies,” the delivery of good care is dependent on access to information by the treating physician and patient. As such our hotline functions 24 hours/day 7 days/week to meet these needs. The service can be accessed by phone or from our website.

Evidence-Based Recommendations - that are frequently accompanied by references and copies of sentinel articles.

A Multidisciplinary Approach - There are times when cases demand complex decision-making in areas of quarantine, emerging drug resistance, drug intolerance, and mental health. In such instances we are proud to be able to assist our team of TB physicians, public health professionals, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, pharmacists and TB medical experts to review certain cases together and provide multidisciplinary recommendations.

Unique Opportunity for Training and Education - We believe that case-based learning is the most effective tool in assisting and training medical professionals. Therefore, more than simply answering a question, we use each case as a chance to exchange information and provide additional education and training. In addition, calls are followed-up by a written summary of the consultation to further reinforce teaching points.

A Chance to Build Relationships - These exchanges are unique opportunities for medical providers in the southeast to build professional relationships that are founded on trust, the sharing of knowledge, the preservation of privacy, and the promotion of altruism in medicine and public health.

Below are some examples of recent consult requests and responses. We are honored to be able to serve our region in this way and we look forward to hearing from you in the future!

Question 1 - The case is a young male who was recently diagnosed with pansensitive pulmonary TB and HIV infection. He was started on RIF and approximately 6 weeks later, Atipir and Sustiva were initiated. He now presents with new fevers, worsening bilateral pulmonary infiltrates, evidence of hypoxemia (PO2 50) and liver transaminitis in the 200 range. His tuberculosis medications were stopped and he was admitted to the hospital. What do you recommend? See the response provided by the consultant.

Question 2 - A 45-year-old woman with a positive PPD is a recent arrival from Mexico. She was diagnosed with pericardial TB after a pericardial window was performed for the finding of a pericardial effusion. Specific diagnostic results are not available. How is pericardial TB managed? See the response provided by the consultant.

Question 3 - A 32-year-old woman from Panama was admitted to the hospital with a 2-week history of dry cough, pleuritic chest pain, fevers, and weight loss. She was found to have a right pleural effusion that required a thoracotomy for drainage, as it was loculated. Bacterial cultures were negative and she was sent home on abx. Her pleural fluid was smear negative for AFB but eventually grew out Mtb and is pansensitive. At this time she appears to have completely recovered and is asymptomatic. My take on this is that she had MTB and is pansensitive. What do you think? See the response provided by the consultant.

We welcome your comments and ask that you send them to snlc@medicine.ufl.edu. We are honored to be able to serve you better by giving us feedback and suggestions on our e-newsletter. We welcome your comments and ask that you send them to snlc@medicine.ufl.edu. We are honored to be able to serve you better by giving us feedback and suggestions on our e-newsletter. Below are some examples of recent consult requests and responses. We are honored to be able to serve our region in this way and we look forward to hearing from you in the future!


Originally released in 2004, this joint publication of the CNTC and the TB Control Branch of the California Department of Public Health, contains a host of information and tools for clinicians participating in the management of drug-resistant TB. The focus of our April 2008 issue is our Medical Consultation Service...

Upscoming Courses

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Newswy Bytes


Originally released in 2004, this joint publication of the CNTC and the TB Control Branch of the California Department of Public Health, contains a host of information and tools for clinicians participating in the management of drug-resistant patients. This publication is an essential tool for the clinician and this second edition is now available.

TB Lab Training Assessment

The four RTMCCs and the CDC are interested in learning about the training needs you have related to laboratory and diagnostic services. Start thinking now about suggested content of trainings and the types of educational products that you think would be most beneficial to your program. You will soon have the opportunity to participate in the web-based assessment.

Contact the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center (SNTC)

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center is one of four Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers (RTMCCs) funded by the CDC. The SNTC seeks to address the training, education, medical consultation, and technical assistance needs of healthcare providers and TB programs in 11 southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Central Office at the University of Florida
- 1329 SW 16th Street, Room 5174, Gainesville FL 32608
- Phone 352-265-7683 • Fax 352-265-7683
- snlc@medicine.ufl.edu

Clinical Training Campus at A.G. Holley TB Hospital
- 1199 Lantana Road, Lantana FL 33462
- Medical Consultation HOTLINE - 800-4TB-INFO

We need your input and ideas... Please help us serve you better by giving us feedback and suggestions on our e-newsletter. We welcome your comments and ask that you send them to snlc@medicine.ufl.edu.

We do not wish to receive this newsletter, email us and we will delete you from our mailing list.

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