Value the concept of evidence-based practice as integral to determining best clinical practice.

Appreciate strengths and weakness of evidence for preventing pneumococcal infection in children with SCD.

References

- Gaston MH, Verter JI, Woods G, et al. Prophylaxis with oral penicillin in children with sickle cell anemia: a randomized trial. *N Engl J Med*. 1986;314(25):1593–1599.
- Guyatt GH, Oxman AD, Vist GE, et al. GRADE: an emerging consensus on rating quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. *BMJ*. 2008;336(7650):924–926.
- Gwaram HA, Gwaram BA. A systematic review of effectiveness of daily oral penicillin v prophylaxis in the prevention of pneumococcal infection in children with sickle cell anaemia. *Niger J Med.* 2014;23(2):118–129.
- Hirst C, Owusu-Ofori S. Prophylactic antibiotics for preventing pneumococcal infection in children with sickle cell disease. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2014;(11) [CD003427].
- Hord J, Byrd R, Stowe L, et al. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* sepsis and meningitis during the penicillin prophylaxis era in children with sickle cell disease. *J Pediatr Hematol Oncol*. 2002;24(6):470–472.
- John AB, Ramlal A, Jackson H, et al. Prevention of pneumococcal infection in children with homozygous sickle cell disease. *Br Med J.* 1984;288(6430):1567–1570.
- Lee A, Thomas P, Cupidore L, et al. Improved survival in homozygous sickle cell disease: lessons from cohort study. *Br Med J.* 1995;311(7020):1600–1602.
- McCavit TL, Gilbert M, Buchanan GR. Prophylactic penicillin after 5 years of age in patients with sickle cell disease: a survey of sickle cell disease experts. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2013;60(6):935–939.
- Riddington C, Owusu-Ofori S. Prophylactic antibiotics for preventing pneumococcal infection in children with sickle cell disease. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2002;(3) [CD003427].