

## CLINICAL SCENARIO

A 19-year-old college student has a severe sore throat and a mild fever (temperature 38.3°C), and he feels bad. The symptoms have been present for 4 days and initially started with a dry cough. There is a pharyngeal exudate, but only on the left side of the posterior pharynx. His neck reveals tender adenopathy. Should you assume he has streptococcal pharyngitis and start treatment?

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Age

Group A streptococcus (GAS) rare under 3

3-14 years

+1

15-44 years

0

≥45 years

-1

Exudate or swelling on tonsils

No 0

Yes +1

Tender/swollen anterior cervical lymph nodes

No 0

Yes +1

Temp >38°C (100.4°F)

No 0

Yes +1

Cough

Cough present

0

Cough absent

+1

**4** points

51% - 53% likelihood of strep

Consider rapid strep testing and/or culture. Empiric antibiotics may be appropriate depending on the specific scenario.