

# Necrotizing fasciitis in children in eastern Ontario: a case–control study

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics and clinical features at presentation of children with necrotizing fasciitis (case subjects) and those with cellulitis (control subjects) in eastern Ontario**

Variable	Case subjects <i>n</i> = 8	Control subjects <i>n</i> = 24	<i>p</i> value
<b>Mean age (and range), yr</b>	5.00 (2.10–13.08)	4.62 (0.44–14.6)	0.69
<b>Male sex, no. of children</b>	3	16	0.22
<b>Signs and symptoms, no. of children</b>			
Generalized erythematous rash	4	2	0.02
Toxic appearance	4	1	< 0.001
Focal swelling	7	17	0.64
Focal erythema	7	24	0.25
Focal pain	7	7	0.10
Focal splinting	3	3	0.15
Significant tenderness	3	3	0.15
<b>Vital signs</b>			
Mean heart rate (and range), beats/min	136.25 (80–156)	121.42 (80–186)	0.10
Mean respiratory rate (and range), breaths/min	31.50 (20–48)	25.42 (18–38)	0.02
Mean systolic blood pressure (and range), mm Hg	104.88 (90–120)	<i>n</i> = 19 106.47 (86–130)	0.79
Mean diastolic blood pressure (and range), mm Hg	55.63 (40–80)	<i>n</i> = 19 64.53 (47–93)	0.07
Mean temperature (and range), °C	38.7 (38.0–39.4)	37.8 (36.1–40.7)	0.006
No. with history of fever	8	10	0.004
<b>Blood values</b>			
Mean white blood cell count (WBC) (and range), x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	17.12 (3.14–40.5)	13.22 (5.64–23.5)	0.53
No. with high WBC*	5	6	0.09
No. with low WBC†	2	0	0.06
Mean hemoglobin level (and range), g/L	117.63 (95–141)	121.33 (101–143)	0.47
Mean platelet count (and range), x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	194.00 (15–375)	299.33 (157–458)	0.03
No. with low platelet count‡	2	0	0.06
<b>Comorbidity</b>			
Varicella infection	4	7	0.40
Surgery	1	1	0.44
Trauma	2	12	0.41
<b>Culture result, no. of children</b>			
Group A β-hemolytic <i>Streptococcus</i>	7	4	< 0.001
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	1	5	1
	<i>n</i> = 7	<i>n</i> = 23	
Positive blood culture	3	1	0.04
<b>Outcome</b>			
No. admitted to ICU	7	0	
Mean length of stay in ICU (and range), d	4.38 (0–11)	0 (0–0)	< 0.001
Mean total length of stay (and range), d	23.38 (17–38)	3.92 (1–14)	< 0.001
No. with temporary disability	7	2	< 0.001

Note: ICU = intensive care unit.  
\*High WBC = > 15.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L.  
†Low WBC = < 5.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L.  
‡Low platelet = < 150 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L.

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