

Table 1: Characteristics of family medicine patients presenting with infection of the upper respiratory tract and sore throat

Characteristic	No. (and %) of patients*	
Age 3–14 yr	167/620	(26.9)
Female	415/617	(67.3)
Visit between October 1998 and March 1999	611/621	(98.4)
Clinical characteristics		
Sick 1–3 days before visit	330/585	(56.4)
Sore throat	579/621	(93.2)
Cough	405/619	(65.4)
Runny or stuffy nose	396/619	(64.0)
Swollen glands	307/607	(50.6)
Headache	307/617	(49.8)
General aches	273/613	(44.5)
History of temperature > 38°C	200/615	(32.5)
Red throat	427/611	(69.9)
Tenderness of anterior cervical nodes	258/613	(42.1)
Tonsillar swelling	178/614	(29.0)
Tonsillar exudate	102/612	(16.7)
Physician's diagnosis		
Upper respiratory tract infection	294/618	(47.6)
Pharyngitis	128/618	(20.7)
Strep throat	46/618	(7.4)
Tonsillitis	31/618	(5.0)
Other†	119/618	(19.3)
Antibiotic prescribed	173/618	(28.0)
Positive result for throat culture	102/600	(17.0)

*For some characteristics, the denominator is less than 621 because of missing data.

†Some examples include laryngitis, rhinitis and viremia (all less than 1% each), and viral illness (6.0%).

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