

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to make you aware of an important clinical trial supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that we are conducting at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC (Oakland) at affiliated Pitt Net practices and at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The study evaluates duration of treatment for children with urinary tract infections (UTIs), 5 versus 10 days, and its impact on antimicrobial resistance.

We invite you to actively participate in this research program by referring parents whose children are on day 1-5 of antimicrobial therapy for their UTI. Our purpose is not to assume the care of your patients, but only to carefully follow this group of children in order to document the treatment and course of their urinary tract infection.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Practice Parameter for the treatment of UTI in infants and young children recommends a 7-14 day antimicrobial course, however most physicians routinely prescribe at least 10 days of antimicrobial therapy. Randomized clinical trials over the last 25 years have not provided definitive evidence supporting 7-14 day antibiotic courses for children with UTI. Due to the frequency of UTIs in children, and limitations of previous studies investigating the effectiveness of shorter courses of therapy, there is a need for a well-designed, sufficiently large trial to determine the efficacy and safety of shorter course antimicrobial therapy.

The SCOUT study is part of an initiative by the NIH to help answer key questions about proper treatment duration. The study will enroll a total of 746 subjects during the next 4 years. Children will be randomly assigned to either an additional 5 days of the same antimicrobial or placebo. They will be closely monitored for reinfection and colonization with resistant bacteria. Our study team will keep in close contact with the family during the 6-week enrollment period. You can find information about this study at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC web site at www.chp.edu/scout.

As always, thank you for our support of our research program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 412-692-UTIS (8847) or hoberman@chp.edu.

Very truly yours,

Alejandro Hoberman, MD Chief, Division of General Academic Pediatrics Department of Pediatrics, Vice Chair for Clinical Research