

PERFORM - Personalised Risk assessment in febrile illness to optimise Real-life Management across the European Union

PERFORM is a Horizon2020 project which aims to improve the diagnostics in febrile children and adolescents. The management of febrile patients is one of the most common and important problems facing healthcare providers. Distinction between bacterial infections and trivial viral infection on clinical grounds is unreliable and, as a result, innumerable patients worldwide undergo hospitalisation, invasive investigation and are treated with antibiotics for presumed bacterial infection when, in fact, they are suffering from self-resolving viral infection.

Throughout its five year span, PERFORM will develop a comprehensive management plan for febrile patients, capable of being rolled out in different healthcare systems across Europe, by linking sophisticated new genomic and proteomic approaches to careful clinical phenotyping, and building on pilot data from previous studies.

Inclusion criteria

All children <18 years presenting to the Emergency department with fever >38°C, or a history of fever (within 3 days), in whom the attending clinician determines the need for blood sampling or whom parents give consent for bloods taken for research purposes.

All children <18 years presenting to the Emergency department suspected of infection. We will include children with the full spectrum of disease severity, and will include children with co-morbidities, as these children are at higher risk of antibiotic treatment and are therefore a particular target for study.

Samples / Materials

Samples from 500 patients will be collected in Graz. Specimens include ETDA (plasma, pellet and whole blood), PAXgene, CSF, throat swab, urine, stool and stored at -80°C.

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