DIARRHEA IN YOUNG CHILDREN

Abstract

Diarrhoeal disease and its complications remain a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children, especially in developing countries. Diarrhoea is characterised by an increased frequency and volume, and decreased consistency of stool. Pathogens vary between developed and developing world settings.

Diarrhoeal disease and its complications remain a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children, especially in developing countries. It is the second most common cause of death in children under five years of age worldwide and is responsible for 2.4 million deaths each year

The management of a child presenting with acute diarrhoea must include a thorough history and examination with evaluation of hydration status, nutritional status and comprehensive clinical evaluation for any complications or associated illnesses. The most recent advances in the area of acute diarrhoeal disease include zinc supplementation, reduced osmolarity oral rehydration solution (ORS) and rotavirus vaccination.