In 1999, the first Canadian guidelines for the management of Helicobacter pylori infection in children were generated and published in The Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology (1999;13[3]). Guidelines specific to the pediatric population are clearly relevant because infection is acquired in childhood and yet children rarely develop complications associated with infection (such as peptic ulcer disease or gastric cancer). Since the initial guidelines were published, there has been a vast amount of new knowledge gained with respect to H pylori infection. Therefore, in May 2004, the Canadian Helicobacter study group held a consensus conference to provide updated evidence-based guidelines for the management of infection in children and adolescents. The recommendations generated from this meeting are outlined in the present issue of the Journal. The aim of these guidelines is to assist the practitioner in the management of children infected or suspected of having infection with the gastric pathogen H pylori and, thereby, improve the overall care of children. In addition, recent advances in the field, including both basic and clinical sciences, are highlighted in accompanying papers in the present issue.
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