

INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS

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Case

- A 2 year old male with TOF presents with three days of fever, vomiting, and malaise. On arrival to the ED, he has a fever of 103F and is hypoxic with O2 sat 86%.

Which of the following tests is least helpful in diagnosing endocarditis?

- A) blood culture
- B) trans-esophageal echo
- C) trans-thoracic echo
- D) EKG
- E) ESR/CRP

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Answer: D

- “Electrocardiography is generally not helpful in the diagnosis of IE with the exception of IE with periannular extension, in which prolongation of the PR interval or frank heart block can occur.”
- A minimum of 3 blood cultures should be obtained.
- TEE is more sensitive than TTE but TTE may be used initially, except in obese children where the yield is low.

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- B) Streptococcus viridans
- C) Enterococci
- D) Staphylococcus aureus

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Answer: C

- The staphs and streps account for the vast majority of organisms in infective endocarditis in children. Enterococci are rare causes in children.