


Echocardiographic screening for rheumatic heart disease in Turkish school children

Semra Atalay¹, Ercan Tutar¹, Tayfun Uçar¹, Seda Topçu² , Serdal K. Köse¹ and Melih T. Doğan¹

Letter to Editor

Cite this article: Atalay S, Tutar E, Uçar T, Topçu S, Köse SK, and Doğan MT (2020) Echocardiographic screening for rheumatic heart disease in Turkish school children. *Cardiology in the Young* 30: 151. doi: [10.1017/S1047951119002981](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1047951119002981)

Received: 8 November 2019
Accepted: 14 November 2019
First published online: 19 December 2019

Author for correspondence:

S. Topçu, MD, Division of Social Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Ankara University School of Medicine, 1549. Cadde, Hardem Apartmanı, B Blok, Daire 12. Çiğdem-Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey. Tel: +90 505 706 46 32; Fax: +90 312 306 59 17; E-mail: msdatopcu@gmail.com

¹Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Department of Pediatrics, Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey and ²Division of Social Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

Reply

We read with great interest the letter of Fairley JM, and Ahmad M and thank them for their interest and invaluable contribution to our paper. They pointed out the recent developments in 2019 about the screening and prophylaxis of rheumatic heart disease. We agree that simplified efficacious screening proposed by Remydi et al, and Nunes et al for rheumatic heart disease would be very beneficial particularly in the resource-poor countries.^{1,2} Especially, the study of Nunes et al is encouraging the applicability of 1-stage handheld echocardiographic screening without confirmatory follow-up.² Another important problem discussed by Fairley JM, and Ahmad M was the necessity of secondary penicillin prophylaxis in patients with borderline or latent rheumatic heart disease. Although our policy is close follow-up without secondary prophylaxis, the correct answer of this problem is not clear. We hope that the results of GOAL trial will help us to solve this problem.³ The criteria proposed by Nunes et al about prediction of disease progression is also very promising in respect to secondary prophylaxis in borderline rheumatic heart disease.²

References

1. Remenyi B, Davis K, Draper A, et al. Single parasternal-long-axis-view-sweep screening echocardiographic protocol to detect rheumatic heart disease: a prospective study of diagnostic accuracy. *Heart Lung Circ* 2019; S1443-9506(19)30602-X.
2. Nunes MCP, Sable C, Nascimento BR, et al. Simplified echocardiography screening criteria for diagnosing and predicting progression of latent rheumatic heart disease. *Circ Cardiovasc Imaging* 2019; 12: e007928.
3. Beaton A, Okello E, Engelman, D, et al. Determining the impact of Benzathine penicillin G prophylaxis in children with latent rheumatic heart disease (GOAL trial): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Am Heart J* 2019; 215: 95–105.