



- Evidence of complications?
e.g. Voice changes, drooling, stridor, torticollis, trismus, facial swelling below the mandible

Or

- Child appears severely unwell?

No

Yes

Consider potential airway threats:

- Epiglottitis or Bacterial tracheitis
- Retropharyngeal or lateral pharyngeal abscess
- Peritonsillar abscess
- Infectious mononucleosis (rarely causes airway obstruction)

[ICU review](#)
[See Table](#)

Significant Risk factors ?

- Indigenous Australian/Maori/Pacific Islander
- Previous Acute rheumatic fever
- Immunosuppression

No

Yes

Perform throat swab
Commence Antibiotics to cover Group A streptococcus (GAS)
Cease antibiotics if culture negative

Patient requires hospitalisation?

- Dehydration
- Severe pain unresponsive to simple analgesia

No

Yes

Perform throat swab
Commence antibiotics to cover GAS
Cease antibiotics if culture negative
Symptomatic treatment

No antibiotics
Symptomatic treatment
Explain likely course of illness
Advise clinical review if symptoms worsen

[Analgesia](#)