

PATCH is a practice changer!

Our paper “**Penicillin to prevent recurrent leg cellulitis**” in the New England Journal of Medicine from the PATCH 1 study has featured as a “practice changer” in the *Journal of Family Practice* (Link: <http://europepmc.org/articles/PMC3890441>). The study is the subject of a **PURLs update** (Priority Updates from the Research Literature from the Family Physicians Inquiries Network).

The update states:

“This trial provides strong evidence that a lower dose of penicillin than is currently recommended by the IDSA (250 mg vs 1 g BID) is effective in reducing leg cellulitis recurrence. It also shows that 12 months of prophylaxis significantly reduces the risk of recurrent leg cellulitis, but that the effect may diminish when the penicillin is stopped.”

On the basis of our trial it recommends:

“Prescribe low-dose penicillin to patients with recurrent leg cellulitis to decrease the frequency of recurrent episodes”.

Our study has also featured in the 2014 update of the Infectious Diseases Society of America’s **Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Skin and Soft Tissue Infections** (Link: <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/59/2/e10.full.pdf+html>). It was used as evidence in support of the recommendation to administer prophylactic antibiotics to patients who have 3–4 episodes of cellulitis per year despite attempts to treat or control predisposing factors.

References

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