and develop a clinical algorithm incorporating point of care tests for management of AFI with rapid turnaround, which could be used at the level of primary health center. Use of rapid diagnostic tests has reduced the overuse of antimalarial drugs. Efforts are needed to expand the use of point of care tests for other common causes of febrile illness, which will optimize disease management. Future research efforts should focus on developing new antigen-based point of care tests to accurately diagnose scrub typhus in early phase, thereby reducing the number of patients treated empirically.

There is also a need for formative research into the modifiable risk factors for scrub typhus. Unlike adults who are at risk of scrub typhus due to their occupation, young children are likely to be at risk of exposure due to poverty-related poor sanitation practices and child rearing practices. Presence of vegetation or bushes near the house is a risk factor for scrub typhus. In Gorakhpur, children who had recent exposure to the outdoor environment (for defecation, playing or visiting agricultural fields), or engaged in storing firewood indoors, and handling fodder for cattle were found to be at a higher risk for acquiring scrub typhus [12]. Strategies for prevention of scrub typhus should therefore include providing sanitary toilets and focus on changing behaviors through policy initiatives like Swach Bharat Abhiyan.

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REFERENCES


NOTICE

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lock-down in India, printing and posting of the journal issues has been hampered. However, with the sustained efforts of the editorial team and the press, we have been able to continue disseminating the e-copy of the journal to all members. These e-copies are also available for download at the members’ area of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics website (www.iapindia.org). Print issues will be posted once the postal services are fully restored. We look forward to your continued support for the journal during these difficult times.