INTRODUCTION

Sore throat is very common, accounting for 2.5 million visits to primary care each year. In a recent study, a general practitioner (GP) was asked to diagnose and treat a patient with a sore throat in an outpatient setting. GPs in the UK report that they are most likely to diagnose streptococcal infection if the patient is a child or a young adult, and that they are less likely to diagnose it if the patient is an older adult. However, the accuracy of GPs' diagnoses is not known. The aim of this study was to examine the factors that influence GPs' diagnoses of streptococcal infection.

METHODS

The data used in this study were from a single-centre study of 400 patients at a university health centre. The study was approved by the local ethics committee. The sample size was based on the prevalence of streptococcal infection in the community, which was estimated to be 5%. The study used a cross-sectional design with an observational approach to investigate the factors that influence GPs' diagnoses of streptococcal infection.

RESULTS

The study found that GPs' diagnoses of streptococcal infection were influenced by a number of factors, including the patient's age, sex, and the presence of symptoms such as fever, cervical lymphadenopathy, and pharyngeal pain. The study also found that GPs were more likely to diagnose streptococcal infection if the patient was a child or a young adult, and that they were less likely to diagnose it if the patient was an older adult. The study also found that GPs were more likely to diagnose streptococcal infection if the patient had a history of fever or pharyngitis, and that they were less likely to diagnose it if the patient had a history of tonsillitis or the common cold.

CONCLUSIONS

GPs' diagnoses of streptococcal infection are influenced by a number of factors, including the patient's age, sex, and the presence of symptoms such as fever, cervical lymphadenopathy, and pharyngeal pain. The study also found that GPs were more likely to diagnose streptococcal infection if the patient was a child or a young adult, and that they were less likely to diagnose it if the patient was an older adult. The study also found that GPs were more likely to diagnose streptococcal infection if the patient had a history of fever or pharyngitis, and that they were less likely to diagnose it if the patient had a history of tonsillitis or the common cold.