

A Statewide Quality Initiative to Reduce Unnecessary Antibiotic Treatment of Asymptomatic Bacteriuria: Estimating the Effect of Diagnostic vs. Antibiotic Stewardship

Results from 14,572 patients with a positive urine culture (7/1/2017-3/31/2020)
28.4% (N=4,134) had ASB (asymptomatic bacteriuria), of whom 76.8% received antibiotics

Over time, the percentage of patients with a positive urine culture who had ASB declined



Suggesting more selective urine testing

Meanwhile...

Percentage of patients with ASB who:

- Received antibiotics (P=0.09)
- Antibiotic duration for ASB (P=0.045)



Remained relatively stable

Key Takeaway

When it comes to ASB... Diagnostic Stewardship has more impact



Hospitals and national policy should prioritize reducing unnecessary urine cultures (i.e., diagnostic stewardship) to reduce ASB-related antibiotic use.

Vaughn VM, et al. *JAMA IM*. 2023.