Approach to a febrile patient
Fever

- Definition of fever
- Control of body temperature
  ✓ Heat generating mechanisms
  ✓ Heat dissipating mechanisms
- Fever versus hyperthermia
- Causes of hyperthermia
Patterns of fever

- Rigors (true shaking chills)
- Hectic fever
- Intermittent fever

Special consideration:
- Fever of tuberculosis
- Infection without fever
Acute febrile syndromes

- Fever with localizing symptoms and signs
- Fever only
- Fever and rash
- Fever and lymphadenopathy
Fever with localization

- Examples of fever and localization
  pneumonia
  meningitis
  septic arthritis
  infective diarrhoea
- Falsely localizing symptoms
Fever only

- **Viral infections**
  - Rhinovirus, adenovirus, parainfluenza virus infections
  - Enterovirus and echovirus infections
  - Influenza
Fever only

- **Bacterial infections:**
  - Enteric fever
  - Brucellosis
  - Localized bacterial infections without overt localizing symptoms
  - Staphylococcal sepsis
  - Tuberculosis
  - Leptospirosis

- **Protozoal infection:**
  - Malaria
Fever and rash

- **Bacterial infections:**
  - Meninococcaemia
  - Gonococcaemia
  - Scarlet fever
  - Toxic shock syndromes
  - Typhoid fever
- **Viral infections:**
  - Measles
  - Varicella
  - Rubella
  - VHF
  - Infectious mononucleosis
Fever and lymphadenopathy

- **Generalized lymphadenopathy**
  - Infectious mononucleosis: EBV, CMV, acute toxoplasmosis, HIV “acute retroviral syndrome”
  - Disseminated tuberculosis
  - Leukaemias and lymphoma
Fever and lymphadenopathy

- **Regional lymphadenopathy**
  - Pyogenic: pyoderma, pharyngitis and periodontal infection
  - Tuberculous: scrofula
  - Sexually transmitted disease
Investigations of febrile patient

- CBC and ESR
- GUE and culture
- Biochemical tests
- Chest X-ray
- Ultrasound of the abdomen
- Blood culture
- Serology