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Nota di contenuto	Preliminaries; Contents; 1 Introduction; 2 Epidemiology of group A streptococci rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease; 3 Pathogenesis of rheumatic fever; 4 Diagnosis of rheumatic fever; 5 Diagnosis of rheumatic fever and assessment of valvular disease using echocardiography; 6 The role of the microbiology laboratory in the diagnosis of streptococcal infections and rheumatic fever; 7 Chronic rheumatic heart disease; 8 Medical management of rheumatic fever; 9 Surgery for rheumatic heart disease; 10 Primary prevention of rheumatic fever; 11 Secondary prevention of rheumatic fever 12 Infective endocarditis 13 Prospects for a streptococcal vaccine; 14 The socioeconomic burden of rheumatic fever; 15 Planning and implementation of national programmes for the prevention and control of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease; 16 Conclusions and recommendations;
Sommario/riassunto	Rheumatic heart disease poses a major challenge to public health and is the most prevalent heart disease in children. A WHO Study group reviewed the current scientific knowledge of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, as well as the medical and public health related practices, and revised the Jones diagnostic criteria for rheumatic

fever and rheumatic heart disease. The present report provides practical recommendations for an evidence-based approach to the prevention and management of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. It also provides practical guidance for implementing cost
