

Why can't I just get an antibiotic?



Cardinal Pediatrics
304-599-8000

Quick Info

- Antibiotics do NOT work on a virus
- Antibiotics do NOT make you feel better
- Taking antibiotics can create resistant bacteria
- Taking any antibiotic comes with RISKS

We LOVE our Cardinal Kids!

We want our kids to use antibiotics only when they TRULY need them! We hope they never have a life-threatening illness, but if they do – we want the antibiotics to work!

What is the problem?

Antibiotic resistance does happen! Your body has a lot of germs and only a few are drug resistant. When you take an antibiotic, it not only kills the bacteria causing the illness, but also the GOOD bacteria trying to protect the body from infection. The drug-resistant bacteria are then able to take over and grow.

What needs antibiotics?

- Strep Throat, as determined by a TEST!
- Whooping Cough
- Urinary Tract Infection

When do I need one for a sinus infection?

- Sinus Infections symptoms lasting over 7-10 days
- Symptoms (nasal congestion, headache, cough, thick drainage) worsening
- Symptoms are severe (high fever, rash, extreme pain), loss of appetite, loss of taste, tooth pain

My throat looks red and puffy – surely its strep – no need to swab!

- Sore throats can be caused by a virus and will feel better in 5-7 days.
- Way to feel better: gargle with warm salt water, drink lots of fluids, get rest, take over the counter meds (Tylenol/Motrin), throat lozenges, or a decongestant.
- To test for strep, a rapid strep test is performed in office. If positive, an antibiotic is prescribed. This is a bacterial infection! If negative, we send a sample to the lab to see if the bacteria grows on a culture. If this culture is positive, then we will call you and prescribe an antibiotic
- A DOCTOR CANNOT LOOK ONLY IN YOUR THROAT AND DIAGNOSE STREP!

All ear infections need antibiotics right?

- Most children over 2 years do not need one – most infections will clear up on their own in 2-4 days
- Doctor may prescribe one if the infection is causing pain or followed by a high fever
- Home methods to help fight the infection: warm wash cloth on ear, over the counter meds (Tylenol/Motrin)



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Remember we are only a phone call/text away!