

ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP RESOURCE FACT SHEET

Improving antibiotic use in dental care will keep you healthy now, help prevent side effects, and help fight antimicrobial resistance. Antibiotic prophylaxis prior to dental procedures should be reserved for patients at high risk of post-treatment complications.



ADA TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

American Dental Association (ADA) treatment guidelines state that antibiotics are not needed for the urgent management of most dental pain and intraoral swelling associated with pulpal and periapical infections in immunocompetent adult patients without additional comorbidities.

Pulpal/Periapical Condition	DCDT Immediately Available		DCDT Not Immediately Available	
	Prescribe Antibiotics	Perform DCDT	Prescribe Antibiotics	Refer to DCDT
Symptomatic irreversible pulpitis with or without symptomatic apical periodontitis	X	✓	X	✓
Pulp necrosis and symptomatic apical periodontitis	X	✓	X	✓
Pulp necrosis and localized acute apical abscess without systemic involvement	X	✓	X	✓
Pulp necrosis and localized acute apical abscess with systemic involvement	✓	✓	✓	✓

Lockhart PB, et al., "Evidence-based clinical practice guideline on antibiotic use for the urgent management of pulpal- and periapical-related dental pain and intraoral swelling: A report from the American Dental Association," Journal of the American Dental Association, Nov. 2019. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31668170/>

7 WAYS DENTISTS CAN ACT AGAINST ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

1. MAKE an accurate diagnosis.
2. When prescribing an antibiotic, CHOOSE the right drug for the right dose and duration.
3. SE narrow-spectrum antibiotics for simple infections and prescribe broad-spectrum drugs for more complex infections.
4. AVOID prescribing antibiotics for viral infections.
5. For empiric treatment, REVISE treatment regimen based on patient progress and/or test results.
6. KNOW the side effects and drug interactions of an antibiotic before prescribing.
7. TEACH your patients about appropriate antibiotic use and emphasize the importance of taking antibiotics exactly as prescribed.

"7 Ways Dentists Can Act Against Antibiotic Resistance." CDC <https://bit.ly/3pJuuw9>



ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES



ADA, Antibiotic Stewardship <https://bit.ly/43kTHL8>

ADA, Antibiotic Prophylaxis Prior to Dental Procedures <https://bit.ly/3PSq0y3>

ADA's Dental Drug Handbook, available for purchase on the ADA website <https://bit.ly/3rn4IDZ>

Antibiotics for Dental Pain and Swelling Guideline <https://bit.ly/3rrwCcr>

Antibiotic Use in Endodontic Infections <https://bit.ly/3rpEEm8>

Antibiotic Use in the United States Progress and Opportunities, 2017 <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/stewardship-report/pdf/stewardship-report.pdf>

ASTDD, Policy Statement: Promoting Antibiotic Stewardship in Dentistry <https://bit.ly/3NI2AIS>

CDC, Antibiotic Stewardship <https://bit.ly/3XOT0xo>

CDC, Antibiotic Use for a Safe Dental Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/pdfs/AU-Dental-Trifold-Brochure-P.pdf>

CDC, Antimicrobial Resistance <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/index.html>

CDC, Checklist for Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry <https://bit.ly/3O8RL3Q>

CDC, DENTISTS: BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE Treating Patients with Dental Pain and Swelling <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/pdfs/ADA-treatment-guidelines-508.pdf>

JADA, Using antibiotic Wisely <https://bit.ly/46LjqIH>