

Q: My child has flu but I want to give antibiotic to protect him or her from pneumonia, what is your opinion doctor?

A: No, studies confirmed that using antibiotics in management of flu do not prevent bacterial complications such as pneumonia.

Q: My child sometimes gets cold with fever but the antibiotic is not prescribed until the 2nd or 3rd visit, what is the cause of this practice?

A: Bacterial infections on top of viral (eg. otitis media and pneumonia) can sometimes take place later on in the course of infection and that is when the doctor has to prescribe antibiotic.

Warning

Unnecessary antibiotics can be harmful.

Does your child really need them?



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Antibiotics

Antibiotics won't help your child to fight a cold or flu

- Common infections usually caused by two kinds of micro beings: bacteria or viruses
- Antibiotics can work against bacteria only like the case of strep throat
- Antibiotics have no effect against illnesses caused by viruses, like colds and flu

Illness	Usual cause		Antibiotics needed
	virus	bacteria	
Colds and flu	*		No
Runny nose	*		No
Cough	*		No
Broncholitis	*		No
Sinus infection	*	*	May be
Ear infection	*	*	May be
Pneumonia	*	*	Usually
Strep throat		*	Yes



Give your child antibiotics only if prescribed by the doctor

- Taking antibiotics when they are not needed leads to antibiotics resistance, when bacteria become resistant to some antibiotic it will not be affected by that antibiotic
- These resistant bacteria can stay in your body or spread to other people, they can cause severe illnesses that are difficult and expensive to treat
- Highly resistant bacteria sometimes cause infections that can't be cured
- Using antibiotics wisely will help slow the spread of resistant bacteria; this will help to keep our life-saving antibiotics effective for years

Protect your child, your family and your society against resistant bacteria.

- No overuse: don't insist on antibiotics and never take antibiotics to treat viral illnesses like colds or the flu
- No misuse: when some antibiotic is prescribed for your child, complete the antibiotic course even if he or she feels better. If you don't, some resistant bacteria may stay with him or her and multiply, requiring different-likely stronger-antibiotic when the infection returns weeks later.
- Take antibiotic only with a doctor's instructions: don't take antibiotics left over from old prescriptions, given to you by friends or family, or purchased without a prescription. These strong medications can cause dangerous side effects
- Prevent infections by washing hands thoroughly, which is the best way to keep from getting sick. Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly. Avoid raw eggs and undercooked meats
- Keep immunization up-to-date- especially for influenza and pneumonia

Commonly asked questions

Q: My child has had a cough on and off for a long time. Shouldn't my child get antibiotics to get rid of this?

A: Children can have up to eight viral cough illnesses each year, and the fact that cough and runny nose can last for one to two weeks each time doesn't necessarily mean that he or she has a bacterial infection needing antibiotics.

Q: If mucous from the nose changes from clear to yellow or green, does this mean that my child needs antibiotics?

A: Yellow or green mucous does not mean that your child has a bacterial infection. It is normal for the mucus to get thick and change in color during a viral infection.

Q: Should I ever give my child antibiotics?

A: Antibiotics are very important medicines for treating infections caused by bacteria. If an antibiotic is prescribed, make sure you give your child the entire course and never save antibiotics for later use.

Q: How do I know if my child's illness is caused by bacteria or virus?

A: If you think your child might need treatment, you should contact your doctor for a diagnosis. But remember, colds are caused by viruses and should not be treated with antibiotics.

Q: Does high grade fever always mean that my child needs antibiotics?

A: No, not always .because high fever can be a sign of bacterial or viral infections and the decision should be taken by the doctor.