



Other Resources for Safe Antibiotic Use:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov>

US Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov>

Return if your symptoms are not resolving or they're getting worse.

You may be having a bad reaction to your medication or a different/additional antibiotic may be needed to treat your infection. Please return to your physician if your symptoms are not resolving.



Innovate. Educate. Advocate.

**American Academy of Emergency Medicine
Resident and Student Association**

555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(800)884-2236

www.aaemrsa.org

info@aaemrsa.org

Copyright © 2016 American Academy of Emergency
Medicine Resident and Student Association (AAEM/RSA)

Resources for Antibiotic Use



Innovate. Educate. Advocate.

American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident Student Association aspires to a future in which all patients have unencumbered access to excellent emergency care provided by a board certified or board eligible emergency physician. Developing emergency physicians will receive the highest quality training in a supportive practice environment with an emphasis on personal wellness and career mentorship.

Join AAEM/RSA at www.aaemrsa.org/joinrsa

Why do we use antibiotics?

Antibiotics are medications that treat infections caused by bacteria. They come in many forms including pills, ointments, liquids or intravenous injections.



When should antibiotics NOT be used?

When should we use antibiotics?

Antibiotics are helpful only when treating infections caused by bacteria. Common bacterial infections include:

- Strep Throat
- Pneumonia (lung infection)
- Bladder Infections
- Sexually Transmitted (Bacterial) Infections (Gonorrhea and Chlamydia)

Antibiotics should NOT be used for infections caused by viruses such as: common cold, flu, most cases of sore throat (excluding strep throat) and sinusitis. If your symptoms persist for more than 10 days, your viral infection may have progressed into a bacterial infection; see your doctor. It is important to only take antibiotics if absolutely necessary. Some antibiotics have side effects such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Allergies to antibiotics are common. Overuse of antibiotics may lead to resistance, i.e. when bacteria are given the opportunity to change so that they are no longer affected by antibiotics.

It is important to complete your dose of antibiotics, even if your symptoms are gone.
This will ensure that the bacteria is no longer in your system.