

ANTIBIOTICS (ABs)

Inappropriate prescribing of antimicrobials can exacerbate the problem of antimicrobial resistance, which leads to antibiotics no longer being effective in treating even simple infections. There are serious consequences for everyone, but particularly those undergoing major surgery, chemotherapy, organ or stem cell transplants. Every year, 25,000 people across Europe, and 700,000 worldwide, die from antibiotic-resistant infections, and the UK government predicts the annual global toll could be 10 million by 2050.

Prudent prescribing of antimicrobials can slow down the further development of antimicrobial resistance, and all healthcare prescribers play a vital role. Dentists prescribe an estimated 10% of all oral antimicrobials prescribed in England, and are required by legislation to ensure appropriate use of antimicrobials.

We follow the guidelines from FGDP and CG Dent for responsible prescribing. Please do not be offended if we refuse to prescribe ABs for these guidelines recommend us not to. Unless there is a systemic involvement (temperature, diffuse (not localised) swelling, Lymph Node or spreading infection, ABs are NOT necessary. Local measures are more relevant. Sometimes Abs are prescribed as an adjunct. Repeat ABs are rarely, if ever, necessary in dentistry.

Additional notes about ABS:

ANTIBIOTICS AND THE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE

This leaflet is given to ALL female patients prescribed an antibiotic as part of their dental treatment at this practice.

This is to inform you of a potential problem if you are also taking the Oral Contraceptive Pill. Occasionally, the antibiotic may interfere with the way the Oral Contraceptive Pill works, making it less effective.

Accordingly, you are advised to use additional methods of contraception (e.g., the condom or sheath) whilst taking your course of antibiotics, and for seven days after stopping. You should continue to take your contraceptive pill in the normal way during this time.

Any concerns or questions you may have regarding the contents of this leaflet, can be addressed to your doctor, family planning clinic or dentist in complete confidence.

METRONIDAZOLE TABLETS

About your medicine the tablets contain 200mg of metronidazole which is an antibacterial drug. It works by stopping the growth or killing the bacteria causing your dental infection.

Before taking Metronidazole tablets make sure your dentist knows:

- If you are pregnant or are breast feeding
- Have any liver disease
- Are taking anticoagulants or antiepileptics

How to take your tablets

- Take 1 tablet every 8 hours with or after food until the bottle is empty
- Swallow the dose whole (do not chew), with a tumbler full of water, fruit juice or squash etc. This will ensure it reaches your stomach without setting up irritation by getting stuck

Side effects

- In addition to its therapeutic effects, metronidazole may cause unwanted side effects (for example, unpleasant taste, furred tongue, headache and gastro-intestinal disturbances). These usually subside as the body gets used to the medicine.
- Consult your dentist, your doctor or NHS direct if you develop an untoward reaction.

Do not consume alcohol while taking metronidazole or you may experience an unpleasant reaction