



DANISH HEALTH  
AUTHORITY

NATIONAL CLINICAL GUIDELINE ON THE  
USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN CONNECTION  
WITH DENTAL TREATMENT

2016

# NATIONAL CLINICAL GUIDELINE ON THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN CONNECTION WITH DENTAL TREATMENT

## Quick guide

Odontogenic abscesses (tooth abscesses)	
↓	Do not use antibiotics routinely in connection with the treatment of patients with odontogenic abscesses (tooth abscesses), if their general condition is not affected by the infection, and there is no risk that the infection will spread, since the beneficial effect is small and clearly overshadowed by the drawbacks, i.e. the risk of resistance development and other potential adverse reactions (⊕⊕○○).
√	It is good practice to use penicillin V in combination with metronidazole in the treatment of odontogenic abscesses (tooth abscesses) in persons whose general condition is affected by the infection. The same applies in case of widely spread disease as well as when there is a risk that the infection will spread. In case of penicillin allergy, penicillin V and metronidazole should be replaced by clindamycin.
Implants	
↓↓	Antibiotics prophylaxis should not be used routinely in connection with implant insertion without simultaneous bone construction, since the benefits are modest and clearly overshadowed by the drawbacks, i.e. the risk of resistance development and other potential adverse reactions (⊕⊕⊕⊕).
√	It is good practice to consider use of antibiotics prophylaxis in connection with implant insertion with bone construction.
Minor surgical procedures	
↓	Antibiotics prophylaxis should not be used routinely for minor surgical procedures in the oral cavity, since the benefit seen is very modest and clearly overshadowed by the drawbacks, i.e. the risk of resistance development and other potential adverse reactions (⊕⊕⊕○).
√	It is good practice not to use antibiotics routinely in connection with tooth extractions and surgery in patients receiving low-dose treatment with antiresorptive medicaments.
Marginal periodontitis (periodontosis) and periimplantitis	
√	It is good practice to consider use of antibiotics as an add-on to mechanical infection treatment of marginal periodontitis (periodontosis) in adults with adequate oral hygiene, provided that the disease does not respond to sufficient mechanical infection treatment.
↓	Antibiotics should not be used routinely in the treatment of periimplantitis, since the beneficial effect is uncertain and clearly overshadowed by the drawbacks, i.e. the risk of resistance development and other potential adverse reactions (⊕○○○).

↑	Consider use of metronidazole alone rather than combined with amoxicillin as an add-on to mechanical infection treatment of marginal periodontitis in adults with adequate oral hygiene, provided that the disease does not respond to sufficient mechanical infection treatment (⊕○○○).
√	It is good practice not to use amoxicillin alone in connection with the treatment of marginal periodontitis.

### About the quick guide

This quick guide contains the key recommendations from the national clinical guideline on the use of antibiotics in connection with dental treatment. The guideline was prepared by the DHA.

The national clinical guideline focuses on ensuring that the use of antibiotics in connection with dental treatment be limited to the conditions/cases where the effect is optimal and the patient clearly needs the medicine.

Thus, the guideline contains recommendations for selected parts of the field only and therefore must be seen alongside the other guidelines, process descriptions etc. in this field.

The recommendations are preceded by the following indications of their strength:

- ↑↑ = a strong recommendation for
- ↓↓ = a strong recommendation against
- ↑ = a weak/conditional recommendation for
- ↓ = a weak/conditional recommendation against

The symbol (√) stands for good practice. This symbol is used in case of lack of evidence, when the working group wants to emphasise particular aspects of the established clinical practice.

The recommendations are followed by the following symbols which indicate the strength of the underlying evidence – from high to very low:

- (⊕⊕⊕⊕) = high
- (⊕⊕⊕○) = moderate
- (⊕⊕○○) = low
- (⊕○○○) = very low

In case of lack of evidence, a recommendation is not followed by a symbol. This applies to the good practice recommendations.

### Further information at [sundhedsstyrelsen.dk](http://sundhedsstyrelsen.dk)

At [sundhedsstyrelsen.dk](http://sundhedsstyrelsen.dk), a full-length version of the national clinical guideline is available, including a detailed review of the underlying evidence for the recommendations.

### About the national clinical guidelines

The national clinical guideline is one of the 50 national clinical guidelines to be prepared by the DHA during the period 2013-2016.

Further information about the choice of subjects, method and process is available at [sundhedsstyrelsen.dk](http://sundhedsstyrelsen.dk).