



Antibiotic Information Leaflet

Your dentist has prescribed an antibiotic drug for you. This is a drug which fights the bacteria (germs) which cause infections. For the drug to have maximum effect it must be taken as directed. To reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance it is advised that you take the medication until you get better and then for 2 more days. **It is not required that you finish a full course. Get better plus 2 days only.**

It may take up to 48 hours before you feel the benefit of the drug and in the meantime it is perfectly safe to take normal painkillers such as Nurofen, Ibuprofen, Paracetamol or Aspirin, as directed on the packet.

Most antibiotics are better taken about half an hour before food so that they are absorbed more quickly into the bloodstream (but the drug **Metronidazole** is different and should be taken with food). You should space them at approximately equal intervals during the day.

e.g 3 tablets – one each at 8am, 3pm and 11pm

4 tablets – one each at 8am, 1pm, 6pm and 11pm

If you experience a rash or fever, stop the treatment immediately and inform your dentist as you may have developed an allergy to the drug.

If taking the drug Metronidazole you must not take any alcohol during the course of treatment as the mixture of the two will make you nauseous.

Antibiotics often cause slight nausea and diarrhoea but you need not worry about mild side effects. However, if you have diarrhoea with bleeding, stop taking the drug and inform your dentist. This is particularly important with the drug **Clindamycin**.

If your condition is worsening, the swelling becomes significantly worse or you develop a raised temperature, phone the practice on (01653) 693809.

Women must be aware that antibiotics can reduce the effectiveness of the Contraceptive Pill and alternative measures should be considered during the course of treatment and for seven days afterwards.

Please inform your dentist if you are pregnant.

It is important to attend any follow up appointment.

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