

What's the harm?

Taking antibiotics, like any other drug, can have risks. Before taking antibiotics, it is important to weigh the possible benefits of taking them versus the possible risks, including:

- **Diarrhea** (including *C.diff* infection which is a severe form of diarrhea)
- **Upset stomach**
- **Skin reactions**
- Development of **antibiotic resistance**

More Information

Scan the QR code below for more information on antibiotic stewardship and resistance and to find patient stories about how antibiotic resistance has affected their lives.



<https://antibioticawareness.ca>



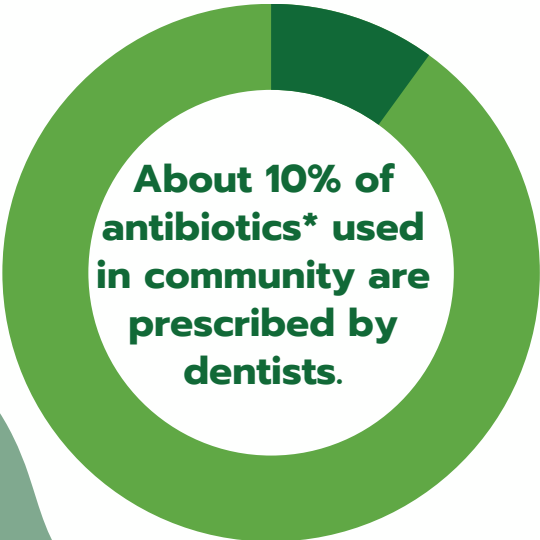
Antibiotics: What's the harm?



Why are antibiotics prescribed?

Antibiotics are prescribed to treat bacterial infections.

However, many common dental concerns do not require antibiotics.



About 10% of antibiotics* used in community are prescribed by dentists.

What is antibiotic stewardship?

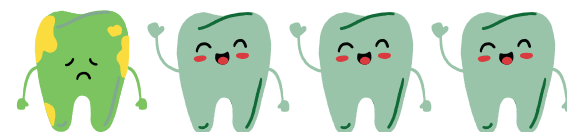
Antibiotic stewardship is the responsible use of antibiotics in order to prevent resistance. It encourages the proper choice and use of antibiotics.

What is antibiotic stewardship in dental practice?

For example, dental abscesses should be drained whenever possible, and not all abscesses require antibiotics when drained.

Why does antibiotic resistance matter?

If bacteria develop resistance, the antibiotics we usually use to kill them may not be effective. This limits the antibiotic options we have to treat infections.



1 in 4 infections* are already resistant to the preferred antibiotic used to treat them.

*<https://choosingwiselycanada.org/susan-sutherland/?highlight=dentist>

*<https://antibioticawareness.ca>