



## Antibiotics Information Leaflet

Antibiotics are drugs that fight the bacteria which cause infections. If you think you could be allergic to a particular antibiotic, you should inform your dentist immediately.

For the drug to have the maximum effect it must be taken as directed and it is very important to complete the full course of treatment, even if you feel better and your symptoms have disappeared.

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

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 any normal painkillers that you would use. Always take painkillers as directed on the packet.

Most antibiotics are better taken just before food so they are absorbed more quickly into the bloodstream.

Alcohol will interfere with the absorption of most antibiotics and should not be taken at all if you have been prescribed Metronizadole as the mixture of the two will make you nauseous.

Antibiotics can cause slight nausea and/or diarrhea but you need not to worry about mild side effects. However, if you have diarrhea 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 your dentist.

Please inform your dentist if you are pregnant or could be pregnant.

Women should also 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.

It is important to attend any follow up appointment if one has been made.