

## Antibiotic Information Leaflet

Your dentist has prescribed an antibiotic drug for you. This is a drug which fights the bacteria which cause infections. If you feel you could be allergic to this particular antibiotic please tell us 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 in 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 that 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 Metronidazole as the mixture of the two will make you nauseous.

Antibiotics can cause slight nausea and/or 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 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.

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01384 292666

Wall Heath Dental Practice  
7 High Street  
Wall Heath  
West Midlands  
DY6 0HA

Tel: 01384 292666  
email: [info@wallheathdental.co.uk](mailto:info@wallheathdental.co.uk)  
[www.wallheathdental.co.uk](http://www.wallheathdental.co.uk)