



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 and it is very important to complete the full course of treatment, even if you feel better and your symptoms have disappeared.

It may take up to 48 hours before you feel the benefit of the drug. In the meantime it is safe to take standard painkillers such as Ibuprofen (Nurofen), Ibuprofen, Paracetamol or Aspirin unless you have existing allergies to any of these. Always take them 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 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m.

4 tablets - one each at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

If you experience a rash or fever, stop the treatment immediately and inform your Dentist or Doctor 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 or Doctor. 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 or Doctor.



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.