

Antibiotics appear to have no benefit in treating acute laryngitis in adults

Clinical question	Should I use antibiotics to treat acute laryngitis in my adult patients?
Bottom line	Penicillin V and erythromycin appear to have no benefit in treating acute laryngitis in adults. Erythromycin reduced voice disturbance at one week (NNT = 4.5) and cough at 2 weeks when measured subjectively but there were no objective differences in outcomes between the intervention and control groups.
Caveat	The modest subjective benefits probably are outweighed by costs, adverse effects and negative consequences on antibiotic resistance patterns.
Context	Acute laryngitis commonly causes hoarseness, fever, sore throat, postnasal discharge and difficulty swallowing. These symptoms are usually self-limiting, and influenced by weather conditions.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Reveiz L et al. Antibiotics for acute laryngitis in adults . Reveiz L, Cardona AF, Ospina EG. Antibiotics for acute laryngitis in adults. <i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i> 2007, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD004783. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004783.pub3. This review contains only 2 trials involving 206 participants.
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