

ANTIMICROBIALS - I

PROPHYLACTIC ANTIMICROBIALS

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Abstract: *Prophylactic use of antimicrobials is the use of an antimicrobial agent to prevent infection. The focus of this review is on everyday situations in which a general pediatrician may have to use prophylactic antimicrobials such as preventing recurrent urinary tract infections, recurrent otitis media, surgical site infections, infective endocarditis, rheumatic fever, malaria in travellers and for contacts of highly contagious diseases. Special situations like immunodeficiency disorders, post-transplant state, pediatric hemato-oncology and intensive care settings are distinct entities and have not been addressed in this article in detail.*

Keywords: *Infection, Children, Chemoprophylaxis, Antimicrobial, Prophylaxis.*

Points to Remember

- *Antimicrobials should be used for prophylaxis only when there is a clear indication and the benefits outweigh the risk.*
- *Active infection should be ruled out before initiating prophylaxis.*
- *The importance of non-pharmacological measures, vaccination and infection control should always be borne in mind as they are superior, safer and more effective in prevention of infections.*
- *Attention must be paid for side effects while using certain drugs for prophylaxis such as azithromycin.*
- *The guidelines should be periodically reviewed in the background of emerging evidence and regional antimicrobial resistance patterns.*
- *Monitoring for adverse effects of the drugs used long term is essential.*

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