

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CHEMOPROPHYLAXIS

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Abstract: Chemoprophylaxis refers to the use of antibiotics in the prevention of infections and is an useful arm in the armamentarium to fight infections. It should be used only in select clinical situations where it has been shown to be effective. The clinical situation wherein it is recommended, the agents used, the doses required and the timing and duration of therapy are discussed.

Keywords: Antibiotics, Prophylaxis, Infections.

Points to Remember

- *Chemoprophylaxis is an important weapon in the fight against infections.*
- *Antimicrobial chemoprophylaxis is useful only in very select clinical situations.*
- *One must follow the standard recommendations/guidelines for drug choices, doses and duration.*
- *Haphazard antimicrobial use for prophylaxis is not effective and can actually worsen the situation.*

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