

Antibiotics Work-Children's Health

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Description

Both bacteria and viruses cause diseases. Bacteria are the living, one celled organisms, and thus antibiotics kill them by stopping their growth and reproduction in our body. Viruses are different: They are not considered "alive" and grow and reproduce only after they've invaded the other living cells. While the body's immune system can fight off some of the viruses, antibiotics are ineffective against them. Cold, sore throats, cough, fever and many other ear infections are caused by the viruses and should not be treated with the antibiotics. But sometimes those symptoms may be a part of a more serious condition. For example, pneumonia, whooping cough, urinary tract infections, sinus infections or a strep throat may have symptoms that mimic those caused by the viruses but are caused by the bacteria and can effectively be treated with the antibiotics. In addition, some children may have conditions that makes it harder to heal and recover, in which case the antibiotics may be prescribed. Those conditions involves cleft palate, down syndrome and some immune disorders and having a cochlear in implant.

Discussion

The first three years of life are considered particularly important to a child's development and their health, and doctors will be very careful about prescribing the related antibiotics in the young children. If an illness is said to be mild, doctor may recommend an observation or non-antibiotic treatment. But there will be times when antibiotics are the right treatment for infants, particularly in the case of symptoms like high fever, weakness, moderate to severe a ear pain or symptoms of pneumonia. Different antibiotics work on different types of

bacteria which may include Penicillins (amoxicillin and penicillin G), Beta-lactamase inhibitors (amoxicillin-clavulanic acid or Augmentin), Cephalosporins (cefdinir, ceftibuten, etc), Macrolides (azithromycin and erythromycin), Sulfa drugs (trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole). Sometimes even the babies get some bacterial infections that need to be treated with the antibiotics. The baby's age and weight will be taken into account when deciding on to the type of antibiotic and the dose to be needed. Many potential risks of the antibiotics are thought and considered to be linked to disturbing the balance of bacteria in the microbiome (i.e. the healthy bacteria, fungi and some other viruses in our bodies, most of which live in our gut). The microbiome has a number of important functions that may involve defending against the bad bugs and supporting the immune system function. Changes in the gut microbiome have been linked to increased risk of infections, illness, autoimmune diseases and chronic inflammation.

Conclusion

Antibiotics are not necessary for the viral infections and will only kill the healthy bacteria in the child's system. It may be possible for problems to occur when antibiotics are used to treat conditions in the children. Frequent and inappropriate or improper use of antibiotics can cause the bacteria to change and build up the resistance to antibiotics, requiring higher doses for the effective treatment. Antibiotics also kills the good bacteria in the body, which can further cause diarrhea. In some cases, antibiotics causes bad bacteria, like Clostridium difficile, to proliferate and cause infections that are hard enough to control. Antibiotics can also cause some allergic reactions, like rash and nausea in the children.