

You have not received antibiotics?

- Your infection is most likely **caused by a virus**.
- **Antibiotics do not work** against viruses. They do **not have any effect in your case**.
- **Your immune defences are** sufficient to fight the infection.

You have received antibiotics?

- Your infection is **caused by a bacterium** that must be treated with antibiotics.
- For optimal effect, **take the antibiotics correctly**.
If in doubt, ask your doctor.
- **Do not share** prescribed antibiotics with other people.
- **Do not use** prescribed antibiotics for another infection.





Antibiotics: **Key points**

- **Antibiotics are medicines that kill bacteria.** They are necessary to help your body fight an infection caused by a bacterium.
- **Different infections are caused by different bacteria.** They each require a **different antibiotic and treatment duration.**
- **Antibiotics can cause secondary effects:** for example, they can cause allergies and digestive problems.
- Taking antibiotics unnecessarily can make them **ineffective against certain bacteria: these bacteria are said to be "resistant to antibiotics" and can be difficult to treat.**

You must ask for medical attention if your infection worsens or if treatment causes secondary effects.



More info:
www.ge.ch/antibioresistance

