Antibiotics effective for prolonged wet cough in children

Clinical Question	How effective are antibiotics for prolonged (greater than four weeks) wet cough in children?
Bottom Line	Antibiotics were beneficial in curing the cough NNTB=3). Antibiotics also prevented the illness from getting worse, thus avoiding a further course of antibiotics (NNTB=4). The studies varied in treatment duration (from seven to 14 days) and the antibiotic used (two studies used amoxicillin/clavulanate acid and one used erythromycin). There was no clear evidence about whether antibiotics were associated with more side effects. It was not possible to assess long-term results.
Caveat	The review includes only three studies involving 190 participants. The mean age of participants ranged from 21 months to six years. The studies excluded children with bronchiectasis or other known underlying respiratory illness.
Context	The most common cause of childhood chronic wet cough is protracted bacterial bronchitis. Timely and effective management of chronic wet or productive cough improves quality of life and clinical outcomes. Current international guidelines suggest a course of antibiotics is the first treatment of choice in the absence of signs or symptoms specific to an alternative diagnosis.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Marchant JM et al. Antibiotics for prolonged wet cough in children. Cochrane Reviews, 2018, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD004822.DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD004822.pub3. This review contains three studies involving 190 participants.

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Systematic review link:
https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004822.pub2/full