

Amoxicillin once or twice daily as effective as three times daily dosing for acute otitis media**Clinical Question**

How effective are once or twice daily doses of amoxicillin, with or without clavulanate, for the treatment of acute otitis media (AOM) in children (aged 12 years or less)?

Bottom Line

Treating AOM with either once/twice daily or three times daily amoxicillin, with or without clavulanate, had the same results, including adverse events such as diarrhoea and skin reactions. The outcome measures were clinical cure rates in terms of resolution of otalgia and fever at the end of antibiotic therapy (days seven to 15), middle ear effusion during therapy, and clinical cure rates post-treatment (one to three months) in terms of resolution of middle ear infection and AOM complications.

Caveat

All of the included studies had an unclear risk of bias for allocation concealment. Three studies had an unclear risk of bias for randomisation, as they did not describe the details of randomisation sequence generation or methods to conceal allocation.

Context

Amoxicillin, with or without clavulanate, is frequently prescribed as a treatment of choice for AOM. The conventional recommendation is either three or four daily doses.

Cochrane Systematic Review

[Thanaviratnanich S et al. Once or twice daily versus three times daily amoxicillin with or without clavulanate for the treatment of acute otitis media. Cochrane Reviews, 2013, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD014975.DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD014975.pub3.](#) This review contains 5 studies involving 1,601 participants.