



Conclusions

- 1 Antibiotics don't cure the cold or flu, what should the doctor recommend or prescribe to a patient to get better?
 - a) *Antibiotics can be used to treat viral infections, the doctor should prescribe antibiotics.*
 - b) *Antibiotics can only be used to treat bacterial infections; the cold or flu is caused by a virus. The doctor should prescribe medicines to help with the symptoms.*
 - c) *The doctor should prescribe antifungals.*

- 2 What would happen if a patient was prescribed an antibiotic to treat a bacterial infection, but the bacteria was resistant to that antibiotic?
Hint: Antimicrobial resistance.
 - a) *Nothing! the antibiotic would not be able to kill the bacteria causing the illness therefore the patient would not get any better.*
 - b) *The patient would have gotten better; their infection would have gone away.*

- 3 If you had some amoxicillin left over in your cupboard from a previous strep throat, would you take them later to treat a cut on your leg that got infected?
Explain your answer.
 - a) *No, you should never use other people's antibiotics or antibiotics which have been prescribed for a previous infection. There are many different types of antibiotics which treat different bacterial infections. Doctors prescribe specific antibiotics for specific illnesses and at a dose suitable for that patient. Taking someone else's antibiotics may mean your infection does not get better.*
 - b) *No, you should get some new medicine.*
 - c) *Yes.*

- 4 A patient doesn't want to take the prescribed flucloxacillin for their wound infection.
'I took more than half of those pills the doc gave me before and it went away for a while but came back worse!'
Can you explain why this happened?
 - a) *The patient should not have taken their medicine.*
 - b) *The patient should only have taken one pill.*
 - c) *It is very important to finish a course of prescribed antibiotics, not just stop halfway through. Failure to finish the course may result in not all the bacteria being killed and possibly becoming resistant to that antibiotic in future.*

