



Antibiotics Can/Can't - Answers

Antibiotics can	Antibiotics can't
<p>1 Kill bacteria <i>Some antibiotics work by killing bacteria</i></p>	<p>2 Treat only symptoms <i>Antibiotics only indirectly affect symptoms by killing bacteria. Symptoms are better treated with over the counter medicines like paracetamol</i></p>
<p>4 Stop bacteria growing <i>Some antibiotics work by stopping the bacteria from growing and reproducing</i></p>	<p>3 Help colds get better more quickly <i>Colds are caused by viruses and are therefore not affected by antibiotics</i></p>
<p>6 Help pneumonia get better <i>Pneumonia is often caused by a bacterial infection and is therefore treated with antibiotics</i></p>	<p>5 Kill viruses <i>Viruses are not affected by antibiotics</i></p>
<p>8 Kills many of our natural bacteria in the body <i>Antibiotics not only kill the harmful bacteria that make you unwell, antibiotics also kill the natural bacteria (commensal) that help keep you healthy</i></p>	<p>7 Help hay fever get better more quickly <i>Hay fever is an allergic reaction and is not caused by bacteria, therefore hay fever will not be helped by antibiotics</i></p>
<p>13 Help patients who have bacterial infections after operations get better <i>A person can easily catch a bacterial infection after they have had an operation if they have stitches or an open wound. Antibiotics are important to treat any infections so they can recover more quickly</i></p>	<p>9 Help coughs get better more quickly <i>Most coughs are caused by viruses and are therefore not helped by antibiotics</i></p>
<p>14 Encourage our natural bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics <i>The bacteria in our bodies can become resistant to antibiotics through natural selection.</i></p>	<p>10 Help sore throats get better more quickly <i>Most sore throats are caused by viruses and are therefore not helped by antibiotics</i></p>
	<p>11 Help ear ache get better more quickly <i>Most ear infections are caused by viruses and are therefore not helped by antibiotics</i></p>
	<p>12 Help asthma get better more quickly <i>Asthma is caused by inflammation of the lungs and is not caused by bacteria, therefore asthma will not be helped by antibiotics</i></p>

