



Preventing Rheumatic Fever

TREATING A SORE THROAT WITH A SINGLE PENICILLIN INJECTION

You and/or your child have agreed that your child will have a single injection of antibiotic called penicillin. This single injection will treat strep throat. If left untreated, strep throat can lead to rheumatic fever. Rheumatic fever is a serious illness, but can be prevented.

If your child has a single injection of penicillin, their strep throat gets treated straight away. Then you won't have to worry about remembering to take 10 days of antibiotics.

The single injection of penicillin will only treat this current sore throat. If your child gets a sore throat in the future, you must get it checked again.

For more information on rheumatic fever, go to: <http://rheumaticfever.health.govt.nz>

How is this injection given?

Your child will lie on their tummy and the injection will go into the large muscle in their bottom. This is the least painful spot for the injection. The injection includes some numbing medication to help reduce the pain.

Your child must wait at the clinic for 20 minutes after the injection to make sure they don't have an allergic reaction.

What to expect after the injection?

Your child's bottom will feel sore afterwards. For some children, this soreness lasts for a day or so. If your child is very sore, you could give them pain relief medicine such as ibuprofen or paracetamol (following instructions from your health professional).

Some children get a rash or they feel like vomiting. If this happens on the same day as the injection, please contact your doctor, nurse practitioner or nurse. You can also call Healthline on 0800 611 116 if you have any other concerns.

rheumaticfever.health.govt.nz

SORE THROATS » **RHEUMATIC FEVER** » **HEART DAMAGE**

Dear _____

You have agreed that you/your child will have a single antibiotic injection to treat your/their sore throat.

Today, the following antibiotic injection was given:

- Benzathine benzylpenicillin (Bicillin LA® 900 mg (1,200,000 units))
 Benzathine benzylpenicillin (Bicillin LA® 450 mg (600,000 units))
 In the left buttock In the right buttock

Clinic details:

Date given: _____

Time given: _____

How you / your child may feel after the injection and what can help

Common reactions after an antibiotic injection usually go away after a few days.

Serious reactions are very rare.

You / Your child may have	What can help
Swelling and pain at the injection site (hard and sore to touch)	Place a cold, wet cloth or ice pack where the injection was given. Leave it on for a short time.
Nausea (feeling sick)	Give paracetamol or ibuprofen to relieve significant discomfort.

If any unexpected side effects (for example, vomiting or a rash/hives) happen after this injection, It is important to report them to your family doctor, nurse practitioner or nurse.

If you are unsure about whether a symptom might be related to the injection or you have any concerns, ring your family doctor, nurse practitioner / nurse or call Healthline on 0800 611 116.

Health professionals should report reactions to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM). You can also report them by emailing CARM or using the online reporting form on the CARM website, www.otago.ac.nz/carm.