

Antibiotics for dental pain ?

antibiotic
wise.ca



MANAGEMENT

Dental pain

Pain management with over-the-counter medications.

Localized dental abscess

Pain management with over-the-counter medications.

and

Immediate referral to a dentist for definitive treatment (e.g., incision and drainage, root canal).

DO NOT

prescribe antibiotics for dental pain or localized dental abscess.

Recommendations for your patient

- Over-the-counter pain medication: recommend use of either medication or combined, depending on patient need:
 - Ibuprofen 200-400 mg q 4-6 hours as needed
 - Acetaminophen 325-650 mg q 4-6 hours as needed
- Saltwater rinse/gargle
- Ice pack/heat pad applied to the sore area (externally on the cheek or chin)

Signs of systemic involvement

Antibiotics are indicated **only if** there is systemic involvement associated with the dental infection, such as:



Fever



Discomfort/
malaise



Trismus or
clenching



Swelling spreading
to the face

Antibiotic recommendations

Odontogenic:

Penicillin VK + Metronidazole for 7 days
OR
Amoxicillin-Clavulanate for 7 days

Periodontal:

Amoxicillin + Metronidazole for 7 days
OR
Amoxicillin-Clavulanate for 7 days

See bugsanddrugs.org for specific dosages and recommendations.