

Antibiotics in dentistry; clinical implications for prescribing

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Abstract:

Antibiotics are prescribed by dentists for treatment as well as prevention of infection. Indications for the use of systemic antibiotics in dentistry are limited, since most dental and periodontal diseases are best managed by operative intervention and oral hygiene measures. However, literature provides evidence of inadequate prescribing practices by dentists, due to a number of factors ranging from inadequate knowledge to social factors. The aim of this presentation is to outline inappropriate practices in dental antibiotic prescribing, and consequences of such practices. It also aims to present recommendations for the most appropriate antibiotic prescription regimens in various clinical conditions.