

Title: Strep Throat: Is my child sick?

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Abstract:

Group A Strep pharyngitis, also known as Strep throat, is one of the causes of a sore throat in a child. There are specific signs and symptoms of Strep throat, and your doctor will examine your child looking for these. There are also many viruses that cause sore throat, and these will not respond to antibiotics.

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# Symptoms

Symptoms of Strep throat include:

- throat pain
- fever
- chills
- headache
- abdominal pain
- nausea
- vomiting



If your child has a sore throat but none of the other symptoms of Strep throat, your doctor may not prescribe an antibiotics. This is OK! There are many viruses that cause sore throat. These viruses will not respond to antibiotics. Only time will heal a sore throat caused by a virus.

# Strep Throat

Is my child sick?



Image Sources:  
[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_pmlQSV\\_6HWg/S8T8aQNatgl/AAAAAABts/BFIAAvueYcw/s1600/strep-throat1.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_pmlQSV_6HWg/S8T8aQNatgl/AAAAAABts/BFIAAvueYcw/s1600/strep-throat1.jpg)  
<http://image441.bloguez.com/image441/page40>  
<http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/wellness/info/parents/22941.aspx>  
<http://www.mychildhealth.net/emergency-treatment-of-high-fever-in-children.html>

A Patient Education Brochure developed by Elise Johnson, MS3, in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Medical School

# What is Strep throat?

# Diagnosis & Treatment



There are several antibiotics that are available to treat Strep throat infection.

Strep throat is an infection of the tonsils and throat caused by a bacteria. Strep throat infection is most common among children ages 5 – 15 years old. The infection is not very common in adults and children younger than three years old.

If the doctor sees your child has symptoms of Strep throat, the doctor will:

- Look into your child's mouth and examine the back of the throat
- Use a cotton swab to collect a sample from the back of your child's throat
- Test that sample for the Strep bacteria

A positive test indicates infection.

Your doctor will choose the best antibiotic for your child, most likely one of these:

- Penicillin – shot, pills, or liquid
- Amoxicillin – pills or liquid
- Augmentin – pills or liquid
- Azithromycin or Cephalexin - used in people with an allergy to penicillin