



Pertussis Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis Recommendations

Antibiotic	Dosage		Duration (days)
	Children*	Adults**	
Erythromycin (E-mycin®, Eryc®, EryTab®)	40-50 mg/kg/day PO, in 4 divided doses (Max 2 g/day)	250-500 mg PO, QID (Max 2 g/day)	14
Azithromycin*** (Zithromax®)	10-12 mg/kg/day PO, in 1 dose (Max 500 mg/day)	500 mg PO, in 1 dose (Max 500 mg/day)	5
Clarithromycin (Biaxin®)	15-20 mg/kg/day PO in 2 divided doses (Max 1 g/day for 7 days)	500 mg PO, BID (Max 1 g/day for 7 days)	7
Alternatives for patients/contacts who cannot tolerate erythromycin.			
Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim™, Septra®)	8 mg TMP/40 mg SMX/kg/day PO in 2 divided doses	1 double strength tab, BID	14
Azithromycin (Zithromax®)	10-12 mg/kg/day PO, in 1 dose (Max 500 mg/day)	500 mg PO, in 1 dose (Max 500 mg/day)	5
Clarithromycin (Biaxin®)	15-20 mg/kg/day PO in 2 divided doses (Max 1 g/day for 7 days)	500 mg PO, BID (Max 1 g/day for 7days)	7

SMX = sulfamethoxazole, should not be given to pregnant women near term, nursing mothers, or infants < 2 months of age

TMP = trimethoprim, should not be given to pregnant women near term, nursing mothers, or infants < 2 months of age

* Based on: American Academy of Pediatrics. Pertussis. In: Pickering LK, ed. *Red Book: 2003 Report of Committee on Infectious Disease*. 26th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003: 474-475.

** Per package insert and conversation with CDC; for Azithromycin, **Z-pak** is an alternative.

*** Per conversation with CDC, the following treatment regimen using Azithromycin for children may be considered: Azithromycin 10 mg/kg (Max 500 mg/day) by mouth on the first day of treatment and 5 mg/kg (MAX 250 mg/day) once daily on the second to fifth days of treatment.

(Langley, JM, et al. Azithromycin Is as Effective as and Better Tolerated Than Erythromycin Estolate for the Treatment of Pertussis. PEDIATRICS, (114 No. 1), July 2004: e96-e101).