

Pertussis Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis Recommendations

Antibiotic	Infants (< 6 months of age)	Infants (≥ 6 months of age) and Children	Adults
Azithromycin*** (Zithromax®)	< 1 month: Recommended agent. 10 mg/kg/day in a single dose for 5 days 1-5 months: 10 mg/kg/day in a single dose for 5 days	10 mg/kg in a single dose on day 1 then 5 mg/kg per day on days 2-5 (Max 500mg)	500 mg in a single dose on day 1 then 250 mg per day on days 2-5
Erythromycin (E-mycin®, Eryc®, EryTab®)	< 1 month: Not preferred, associated with IHPS.* 1-5 months: 40-50 mg/kg per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days	40-50 mg/kg/day PO, in 4 divided doses for 14 days (Max 2 g/day)	2 g per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days
Clarithromycin (Biaxin®)	< 1 month: Not recommended 1-5 months: 15 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses for 7 days	15 mg/kg/day PO in 2 divided doses for 7 days (Max 1 g/day)	1 g per day in 2 divided doses for 7 days
Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim™, Septra®)	<2 months: Contraindicated 2-5 months: TMP 8 mg/kg/day, SMZ 40 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses for 14 days	TMP 8 mg/kg/day, SMZ 40 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses for 14 days	TMP 320 mg/day, SMZ 1600 mg/day in 2 divided doses for 14 days

SMZ = 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

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recommended Antimicrobial Agents for Treatment and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Pertussis. MMWR 2005;54 (No. RR-14):10.

*Infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis.