
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q: Why do I have to finish my antibiotic?

Some patients say: I am feeling better after taking them for three or four days, so why should I finish taking them?

Let's say you have 100 bacteria in your body that were making you feel sick. (Really, you have millions of them, but 100 is easier to wrap your head around.) OK, so you have 100 bugs that are making you ill. You take your antibiotic and it starts working. First, it is going to kill the old bugs, the weak ones, the sick ones.

Now, let's say you only have 50 left. You feel so much better, because half of the bugs that were making you sick are gone.

But the ones that are left are the young ones, the strong ones! These can now look at the antibiotic and figure out how to resist it next time. This is how resistance to antibiotics is born. So always take your antibiotic as prescribed.



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