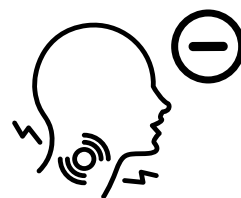


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis Negative



What is Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis?

Group A streptococcal pharyngitis (also known as strep throat or group A strep) is an infection of the throat that may cause a sore throat, fever, or pain when swallowing. Strep throat is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes*, which may be treated with antibiotics. However, symptoms of strep throat (fever, sore throat, etc.) may also be caused by other pathogens like viruses. Group A strep infections are most common in school-age children and people in contact with school-age children. It is also spread through coughing, sneezing, or close contact with an infected person.

What does a negative test mean?

A negative test means the bacteria that causes strep throat was not detected at this time. This suggests that the sore throat is likely caused by something other than strep throat, such as a viral infection, allergies, postnasal drip, or irritation from dry air, smoke, or other environmental factors. Because antibiotics only treat bacterial infections, they are usually not needed when a strep test is negative. Symptoms should resolve with rest and symptom management.

What treatment options can be used for symptom relief?

- Over-the-counter medication:
 - Fever/pain: Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin)
 - Sore throat: Throat lozenges
- Non-pharmacological measures:
 - Rest
 - Drink plenty of fluids
 - Use a humidifier if you have congestion
 - Gargle saltwater for sore throat

When to contact a healthcare provider?

- Symptoms last longer than 7-10 days
- Symptoms are getting worse or new symptoms develop
- If you have trouble breathing
- If a persistent fever develops

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Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Infectious Disease Society of America; Mayo Clinic