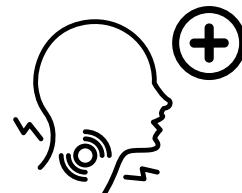


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis Positive



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 positive test mean?

A positive result means Group A Streptococcal bacteria was detected and is highly likely to be causing symptoms. Symptoms include sore throat; fever; pain when swallowing; red, swollen tonsils; and white patches or pus on the tonsils.

What is the treatment?

Since streptococcus pyogenes (the cause of Group A Streptococcal pharyngitis) is a bacteria, an antibiotic can be prescribed. Common antibiotics for the treatment of strep throat include amoxicillin, penicillin, and cephalexin, but other antibiotics may be used depending on patient factors. Antibiotics are usually given for 10 days and it is important to finish all antibiotics, even if feeling better.

What other measures can be used for symptom relief?

- Fever/pain: Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin)
- Sore throat: Throat lozenges or gargle with warm salt water
- Rest
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Use a humidifier if you have congestion

When to contact a healthcare provider?

- If you develop a rash, severe diarrhea, or signs of an allergic reaction
- Symptoms are not improving within 48 hours of starting antibiotics
- Fever continues despite treatment
- Symptoms return after finishing treatment
- Seek immediate care if you experience difficulty breathing, drooling because you can't swallow, severe swelling of the neck/throat, signs of an allergic reaction, or an inability to drink fluids

How to prevent the spread?

Bacterial infections can transmit person to person. To prevent this, wash hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid sharing drinks, utensils or food. Do not attend work, school, daycare, or group activities until you have been on antibiotics for at least 12-24 hours and no longer have a fever. Also replace your toothbrush after 24-48 hours of antibiotic treatment to help prevent reinfection.

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