

Treatment for Hookworm

The treatment of choice is Albendazole. Albendazole is an anti-worm medication. It prevents newly hatched insect larvae (worms) from growing or multiplying in your body.

HOOKWORM Infection Treatment		
<i>(Ancylostoma duodenale, Necator americanus)</i>		
Drug	Adult Dosage	Child Dosage (> 2 years)
Albendazole ^{*,1,2}	400 mg PO Once	400 mg PO Once. [If < 2 years, 200 mg PO x 3 days and repeat in 3 weeks prn].
Mebendazole	100 mg PO bid x 3 days or 500 mg Once. Administer 2 nd dose if patient not cured in 3-4 weeks.	100 mg PO bid x 3 days or 500 mg Once. Administer 2 nd dose if patient not cured in 3-4 weeks.
Pyrantel pamoate ^{1,3}	11 mg/kg (max. 1g) PO x 3 days	11 mg/kg/day (max. 1g/day) PO x 3 days

* Albendazole is the Drug of Choice

1. Not FDA Approved for this indication.
2. Albendazole must be taken with food; a fatty meal increases oral bioavailability.
3. Pyrantel pamoate suspension can be mixed with milk or fruit juice.

The information is a partial list and not meant to be conclusive. It is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis, self-treatment, or for the treatment of others nor be a substitute for consultation with a health care provider

REF: 1) The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics, Drugs for Parasitic Infections, August 2004, 2) Bethony, Brooker, Albonico, Geiger, Loukas, Diemert and Hotez, (2006) Soil-transmitted helminth infections: ascariasis, trichuriasis, and hookworm, *Lancet* 367:1521–1532.

Other more common conditions that affect children and treatment:

CONDITION	Description	TREATMENT
Diarrhea & Dysentery	If a child has loose or watery stools, it is called diarrhea. If the child has mucus and blood in their stool, it's called dysentery. Diarrhea has many causes, the most common include infection and poor nutrition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually no medicines are needed • Give lots of rehydration drinks and food •
Anemia	Common signs are feeling weak, tired, looking pale (especially inside eyelids, gums and fingernails), likes to eat dirt. Common causes are a poor diet (low iron), chronic gut infection, hookworm, and malaria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat iron rich foods like meat, eggs, beans, lentils, ground nuts (peanuts). Dark green vegetables also have iron • Treat the cause of anemia • Wear shoes in areas prone to hookworm • Give iron salts by mouth (ferrous sulfate 100mg three times daily with meals)
Dehydration	Most children who die from diarrhea die because they do not have enough water left in their bodies. Any child with watery diarrhea is in danger of dehydration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give lots of liquids • Keep giving food • Make a rehydration drink (1 liter of water + half teaspoon of salt + 8 teaspoons of sugar)
Vomiting	Vomiting is one sign of many different problems, from minor to severe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat nothing if severe • Sip a cola drink or ginger ale • Give medicine (promethazine 12.5mg – 25mg twice daily or diphenhydramine 12.5mg 3-4 times daily)
Skin Infections	Most common are scabies, infected sores and impetigo, ringworm and other fungal infections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and delouse children • Control bedbugs, lice and scabies • Do not let children with scabies, lice, ringworm or infected sores play or sleep together with other children

		because they can infect other children.
Colds / Flu	Colds and flu are common viral infections that cause runny nose, cough and sore throat and sometime fever and painful joints. They almost always go away without medicines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not give penicillin, tetracyclines or other antibiotics. They will NOT help and may cause harm. • Drink plenty of water • Get enough rest • Aspirin (150mg four times daily as needed) or acetaminophen (250mg four times daily as needed) helps reduce body aches and headaches.
Earache and Ear Infections	<p>Ear infections are common when a child has a cold or stuffy nose.</p> <p>You can determine if an ear canal or the tube going into the ear is infected by gently pulling on the ear. Pain will indicate an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat early. Can use penicillin or cotrimoxazole (use ampicillin in children under 3). • Give acetaminophen for pain. • Carefully clean the pus out of the ear with cotton. Advise caretakers to not use q-tips or a stick, leaves or a plug of cotton or anything else in the ear. • Children with pus coming from an ear should bathe regularly but should not swim or dive for at least 2 weeks after they are well. • For an ear infection, mix 1 spoon of vinegar with 1 spoon of boiled water and place drops of this mixture into the ear 3 or 4 times daily. Use an antibiotic if there is a fever or pus.

Ref: David Werner, Where there is no doctor (Hesperian Foundation), April 2009 (www.hesperian.org).

Notes: Dosing for medicines are children’s oral (by mouth) dosing (ages 2-6 or 3-7 years). In children, sicknesses often become very serious quickly. For example, an illness that may take days or weeks to severely harm or kill an adult can severely hurt a child in a matter of hours.

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