



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Commissioner

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Please distribute this Health Update to all clinical staff in the Department of Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

Study Links Azithromycin Use to Increased Risk of Sudden Death – CDC Reaffirms STD Treatment Guidelines

Several media outlets have reported on a study that links azithromycin use to sudden death. Azithromycin is a commonly used antibiotic, often prescribed to treat respiratory infections, ear infections, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the public health agency tasked with researching and developing STD treatment guidelines, notes that the findings from this study do not necessarily apply to patients who are treated with azithromycin for *Chlamydia* or gonorrhea. A five day regimen of azithromycin was studied, not the single dose regimen recommended for *Chlamydia* or dual therapy for gonorrhea.

The CDC recommends that providers not modify treatment regimens for patients receiving azithromycin for *Chlamydia* and gonorrhea based on recent media reports. CDC's guidance for treating *Chlamydia* and gonorrhea with azithromycin remain as follows:

Recommended Regimen for Treating Chlamydial Infections

Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose OR Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days.

Recommended Regimens for Treating Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of the Cervix, Urethra, and Rectum

Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose

{OR, IF NOT AN OPTION Cefixime 400 mg orally in a single dose OR Single-dose injectable cephalosporin regimens }

PLUS

Azithromycin 1g orally in a single dose OR Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days.

The full CDC Alert can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/Azithromycin.htm>.

Helpful Links:

The Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/>

The Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010: Treating Chlamydial Infections
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/chlamydial-infections.htm>

The Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010: Treating Gonococcal Infections
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/gonococcal-infections.htm>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Thank you,

Susan Blank

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Assistant Commissioner

Bureau of STD Control & Prevention