

This graphic summarises guidance on choice of antibiotic for the treatment of Lyme disease, produced by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). They recommend offering one initial course of antibiotics, and considering a second course of an alternative antibiotic for people with ongoing symptoms. If a person's symptoms continue following two completed courses of antibiotics, their advice is to consider discussion with a national reference laboratory or referral to a specialist appropriate for the person's symptoms

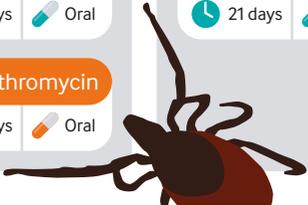


KEY

First, second or third choice: **1st Doxycycline**

Duration of regimen: **21 days** (clock icon) | **Oral** (pill icon) | **Oral or intravenous administration** (IV icon)

Erythema migrans and/or non-focal symptoms	Lyme disease affecting the cranial nerves or peripheral nervous system	Lyme disease affecting the central nervous system	Lyme carditis	Lyme disease arthritis or acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans
1st Doxycycline 21 days Oral	1st Doxycycline 21 days Oral	1st Ceftriaxone + Enhanced dose 21 days IV	1st Doxycycline 21 days Oral	1st Doxycycline 28 days Oral
2nd Amoxicillin 21 days Oral	2nd Amoxicillin 21 days Oral	2nd Doxycycline + Enhanced dose 21 days Oral	2nd Ceftriaxone First choice for haemodynamically unstable patients 21 days IV	2nd Amoxicillin 28 days Oral
3rd Azithromycin 17 days Oral				3rd Ceftriaxone 28 days IV



Dosing recommendations

Doxycycline		Azithromycin	
Age 12+ Children 45kg +	100mg 2x per day or 200mg daily + Enhanced dose 200mg 2x per day or 400mg daily	Age 12+ Children 50kg +	500mg daily
Children 9-12 years under 45kg	Day 1: 5mg per kg 2 divided doses Subsequent days: 2.5mg per kg up to 5mg/kg in severe cases	Children under 50kg	10mg per kg daily

⚠ Doxycycline and azithromycin have no marketing authorisation in the UK for children under 12. However, use in children aged 9 years and above is accepted specialist practice. Informed consent should be obtained, and full responsibility taken by the prescriber

⚠ Do not use azithromycin to treat people with cardiac abnormalities because of its effect on QT interval

Ceftriaxone		Amoxicillin	
Age 12+ Children 50kg +	2g daily + Enhanced dose 2g 2x per day or 4g daily	Age 12+ Children 33kg +	1g 3x per day
Children under 50kg	80mg per kg daily	Children under 33kg	30mg per kg 3x per day

Discuss management of Lyme disease in children and young people with a specialist, unless they have isolated erythema migrans with no other symptoms

For Lyme disease suspected during pregnancy, use appropriate antibiotics for stage of pregnancy

