Think Twice about Antibiotics for Acute Bacterial Sinusitis

Algorithm Showing the Interrelationship of Guideline Key Action Statements

**Adult With Possible Sinusitis**

Duration: ≤ 4 Weeks

- **Viral URI**
  - No
  - **KAS 2**
  - Yes
  - **KAS 1a Table 6**

- **Viral ARS**
  - No
  - **KAS 1a Table 6**

**Meets Criteria for ARS?**

- Yes
  - **KAS 7a Table 6**

- No
  - **KAS 7b Table 7**

**Complication Suspected?**

- Yes
  - **KAS 5b**

- No
  - **KAS 4 Table 6**

**Decision To Proceed With**

- **Watchful Waiting**
  - **Requires assurance of follow-up**

- **Initial Antibiotic Therapy**

**Offer A Safety-Net OR**

- **Wait-&-See Antibiotic Prescription**

**Complication Present?**

- Yes
  - **KAS 3**

- No
  - **Recommend Symptomatic Relief For ARS**

**Option To**

- **Prescribe Antibiotic Based On Shared Decision-Making**

Duration: > 4 Weeks & < 12 Weeks

- **"Subacute" Sinusitis Excluded From Guideline**

Clinician judgment as to whether patient should be managed more like ARS or CRS

Duration: ≥ 12 Weeks

- **Signs & Symptoms Of CRS?**
  - Yes
  - **KAS 7 Table 7**

- No
  - **CRS**

**Documented Sinonasal Inflammation?**

- Yes
  - **KAS 11**

- No
  - **KAS 12**

**Confirm The Presence OR Absence Of Nasal Polyps**

**Recommended Saline Nasal Irrigation &/OR Topical Intranasal Corticosteroids**

**Do Not Prescribe Topical OR Systemic Antifungal Therapy**

**Assess Patient For Chronic Conditions That Would Modify Management**

**Option Of Testing For Allergy & Immune Function**

**Medical OR Surgical Management As Appropriate**

**Additional Resources:**

- Table 4: Acute Rhinosinusitis Definitions: www.entnet.org/ARS-definitions
- Table 6: Patient Information Sheet on Treating Acute Bacterial Rhinosinusitis: www.entnet.org/patient-information-ABRS

For more information and additional resources visit: www.entnet.org/adultsinusitisCPG

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