

Antibiotics in Thyroid Surgery

Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Quality and Patient Safety Committee

Question: What is the role of perioperative antibiotics for thyroid surgery?

Recommendation:

Preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis for routine thyroid surgery is unnecessary

Evidence:

- Overall the rate of infection following thyroid surgery is low
 - Range of 0.1-0.9%
- Risk factors associated with SSI
 - Duration of operation
 - Obesity
 - Non independent functional status
- Most common infecting agent
 - Staphylococcus Aureus
- Mean time to infection ~ 7 days

References:

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Goldfarb M, Perry Z, A Hodin R, Parangi S. Medical and surgical risks in thyroid surgery: lessons from the NSQIP. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2011 Dec;18(13):3551-8. doi: 10.1245/s10434-011-1938-2. Epub 2011 Jul 20.