

Prevention of infection after a sexual assault

Many doctors recommend routine antibiotics be given to patients after a sexual assault to prevent infection. The following medications are suggested as preventive treatment:

- Hepatitis B vaccination, which protects against Hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis B vaccination should be given at the time of the initial examination if the patient has not been previously vaccinated. Follow-up doses of vaccine should be administered 1–2 months after the first dose and again 4–6 months after the first dose. Patients should follow up with their regular medical provider to get the final doses of this vaccine.
- Antibiotics to prevent infection from chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomonas, and BV.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following antibiotics:

Treatment Option 1		Treatment Option 2
Ceftriaxone (125 mg IM in a single dose)		
Metronidazole (2 g orally in a single dose)	OR	Doxycycline (100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days)
Azithromycin (1 g orally in a single dose)		

Patients should ask the medical provider about possible side effects and any medications recommended to treat those side effects.

Clinical information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/sexual-assault.htm>