

# Do antibiotics have side effects?



**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE

Anytime antibiotics are used, they can cause side effects. When antibiotics aren't needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could still hurt you. Common side effects of antibiotics can include:



Rash



Dizziness



Nausea



Yeast  
Infections



Diarrhea

More serious side effects include *Clostridium difficile* infection (also called *C. difficile* or *C. diff*), which causes diarrhea that can lead to severe colon damage and death. People can also have severe and life-threatening allergic reactions.

**Antibiotics save lives. When a patient needs antibiotics, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects.**

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).

