

# PERIODONTAL ABSCESS V2.0

## Comments from the Expert Advisory Group

Consider local measures in the first instance. Antibiotics are only indicated as an adjunct to treatment where there is pyrexia, evidence of systemic spread and local lymph gland involvement or where local measures are ineffective.

Broad-spectrum antibiotics, such as clindamycin, cephalosporins or co-amoxiclav, are rarely indicated in routine dentistry and have the potential to cause adverse effects and contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance.

### Local Measures

- If pus is present in a periodontal abscess drain by root surface debridement through the pocket or by extraction of the tooth.
- If pus is present in the soft tissue attempt incision.

### Treatment

If antibiotics deemed clinically indicated, follow recommendations for [Acute Dento-Alveolar Infection](#).

### Patient Information

[HSE A to Z Dental abscess](#)

# PERIODONTAL ABSCESS V2.0

HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Programme

Version 2.0 Reviewed: November 2023

*Document uploaded onto the HSE.ie site in March 2026. This information is valid only on the day of printing, for any updates please check [www.antibioticprescribing.ie](http://www.antibioticprescribing.ie)*