

Guidelines on the Management of Patients with an Absent or Dysfunctional Spleen

	Child <2	Erythromycin	125mg daily	
When prophylaxis ends, give small supply of antibiotics for use while seeking urgent medical attention in febrile illness.				
Note: immunosuppressed patients (e.g. haematology patients, patients on chemotherapy) may need prophylaxis for longer – consultant responsible for care to decide.				
5	Instruct patient to seek medical attention immediately if he/she feels unwell (even if taking antibiotic prophylaxis).			
6	Warn of risks of foreign travel:			
	Malaria precautions	Prophylactic antibiotics, repellents etc.		
	Group A, C, W135, Y meningococcal vaccination for:	Sub-Saharan Africa, India, Nepal, pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for Hajj or Umrah (boost five-yearly in on-going risk).		
7	Warn of danger of animal bites: seek medical attention.			
8	Refer to DOH (www.dh.gov.uk) for “I have no functioning spleen” card and further information.			

Prophylaxis for Urinary Catheterisation

Refer to NICE CG 139 (March 2012)

When changing catheters in patients with a long-term indwelling urinary catheter, do not offer antibiotic prophylaxis routinely. Consider antibiotic prophylaxis for patients who:

- Have a history of symptomatic urinary tract infection after catheter change, or;
- Experience trauma during catheterisation.

The antibiotic of choice would depend on previous cultures / sensitivity results.