

# Efficacy of azithromycin in chlamydia remains high

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(HealthDay)—Azithromycin is not noninferior to doxycycline for

treatment of urogenital chlamydia infection among adolescents; however, the efficacy of both types of treatment is high, according to a study published in the Dec. 24 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

William M. Geisler, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and colleagues conducted a randomized trial comparing [oral azithromycin](#) with doxycycline for urogenital chlamydia infection among adolescents in youth correctional facilities. The authors assessed the noninferiority of 1 g azithromycin (one dose) with 100 mg doxycycline twice daily for seven days. Participants were randomly allocated to receive azithromycin (284 participants) or doxycycline (283 participants). The per-protocol population comprised 155 patients in each treatment group.

The researchers found that treatment failure did not occur in any patients in the doxycycline group, compared with five patients (3.2 percent) in the azithromycin group. The observed difference in [treatment failure](#) was 3.2 percent, with an upper boundary of the 90 percent confidence interval of 5.9 percent; this exceeded the prespecified absolute 5 percent cut-off for establishing noninferiority of azithromycin.

"In the context of a closed population receiving directly observed treatment for urogenital chlamydia infection, the efficacy of azithromycin was 97 percent, and the efficacy of [doxycycline](#) was 100 percent," the authors write. "The noninferiority of [azithromycin](#) was not established in this setting."

Geisler disclosed financial ties to ActivBiotics Pharma.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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