

# Evaluating the appropriateness of antibiotic treatment of tonsillitis during COVID-19 in the North Wales primary healthcare setting

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## Abstract

**Background** The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the face of primary care delivery in the NHS. Consultations have largely moved from face-to-face to remote, forcing practitioners to modify the ways in which they deliver care to patients. **Aim** In this study, we aim to investigate the appropriateness of antibiotic prescribing in tonsillitis, which is typically guided by clinical findings, during the COVID-19 pandemic **Design and Setting:** An observational quantitative analysis in the North Wales primary care setting **Method:** Retrospective review of computer records across five GP centres from March 2020 until end of October 2020. Data was extracted and analysed using chi-square or fisher exact rank and Man-Whitney test. **Results** Our results have shown no significant difference in antibiotic prescribing behaviour comparing face-to-face and remote consultations. **Conclusion** Remote consultation is as effective as face-to-face consultation with regards to the assessment of tonsillitis and the appropriateness of antibiotic prescription in primary care.

## Title:

**Evaluating the appropriateness of antibiotic treatment of tonsillitis during COVID-19 in the North Wales primary healthcare setting**

**Running title :** Antibiotic treatment of tonsillitis in primary care

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CL and CO are **joint first author\*** and contributed equally in manuscript writing, data collection, analysis, graph-production and conceptualization. AM and IW contributed a significant amount in conceptualization, data collection and manuscript writing. AA and RJ contributed equally to data collection and conceptualisation.

### **Declaration of interests**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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### **Hosted file**

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