

Appendix B

Survey of physicians' opinion on probiotic therapy for antibiotic-associated diarrhea in children

Probiotics (definition):

Probiotics are live microorganisms intended to benefit the host when ingested in sufficient numbers. They are believed to promote healthy balance of gut microbiota through various mechanisms, including reducing colonization of pathogenic organisms through competitive inhibition of epithelial and mucosal adhesion. They are available in fermented foods (e.g., yogurts, drinks) and as supplements (e.g., capsule, powder).

Antibiotic associated diarrhea (definition):

*Antibiotic associated diarrhea (AAD) is a condition in which diarrhea occurs after administration of antibiotics from initiation of therapy up to 8 weeks. *C. difficile* causes a small percentage of AAD. The published incidence of AAD in children ranges from 11% to 40%.*

With regard to the definitions above, please answer the following questions:

1) If parents ask about use of probiotics, how do you respond?

- ☐ I do not know enough about probiotics to make any recommendations
- ☐ I only recommend probiotics for specific indications
- ☐ I refer parents to other specialists or resources (please specify) _____
- ☐ I do not recommend probiotics
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

2) Without parents asking, have you ever recommended probiotics for your patients?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (If no, please skip to question number 5)

3) For what indications have you recommended probiotics?

- ☐ Prevention of antibiotic-associated diarrhea
- ☐ Prevention of non-specific diarrhea
- ☐ Treatment of antibiotic-associated diarrhea
- ☐ Treatment of non-specific diarrhea

☐ Other (please specify) _____

☐ I have advised probiotics but not recommended any specific product

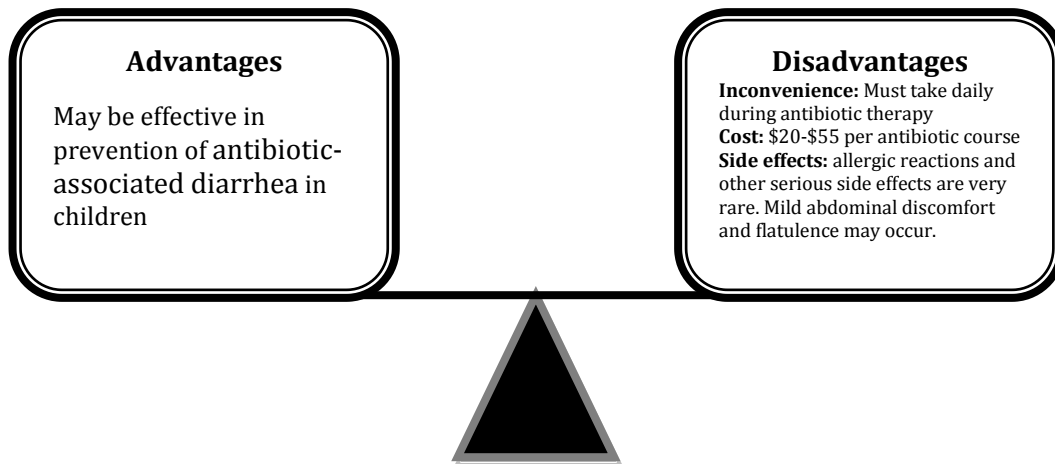
5) When considering probiotics to **prevent** antibiotic-associated diarrhea in children, do you think:

[illegible]

6) When considering probiotics to **treat** antibiotic-associated diarrhea in children, do you think:

[illegible]

7) Please consider the information presented below
Taking probiotics for antibiotic-associated diarrhea in children has:



According to a 2015 Cochrane systematic review, the incidence of antibiotic-associated diarrhea without probiotic therapy is 19%. I would consider probiotic prophylaxis if it would reduce the incidence rate from 19% to: (Please choose only one item)

NOTE:

- Number needed to treat (NNT) = Number of cases that need to be treated to prevent one case of antibiotic-associated diarrhea
- Options are based on 95% confidence interval of probiotics effectiveness in prevention of pediatric antibiotic-associated diarrhea

☐ 12% (NNT=13)

☐ 9% (NNT=10)

☐ 7 % (NNT=8)

☐ I would not consider probiotic therapy for prevention of antibiotic-associated diarrhea

[illegible]

Some information about you and your practice:

9) Please indicate your gender:

☐ Female

☐ Male

10) Please check the category that defines your practice best:

☐ General pediatrician

☐ Subspecialty pediatrician (please specify): _____

11) Year of graduation (from specialty): _____

12) Average number of patients with suspected antibiotic-associated diarrhea that you see in a typical month: _____