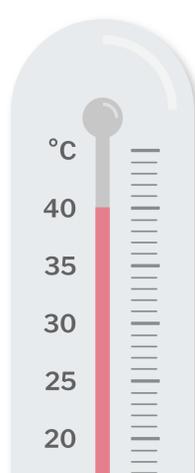


Fever & Neutropenia

What happens first?

If your child has fever and neutropenia (low white blood cell counts), blood will be taken from their central line (if your child has one) and, sometimes, from a vein. Your child's team will then do a blood culture to test this blood for any infection.

If urine can be collected easily, it may also be tested for infection.



How are fever and neutropenia treated?

Your child will receive antibiotics because they may have a serious infection. Usually, children will receive only one antibiotic, but sometimes they may receive more than one.



If your child is at a **lower risk** for infection (for example, they have a solid tumour), they may take antibiotics by mouth.



If your child is at a **higher risk** for infection (for example, they have acute myeloid leukemia), they will receive antibiotics through their central line or a vein.

Some children with fever and neutropenia may be treated at home, but only some hospitals can offer this option. Also, home treatment may not be right for all children.

Ongoing treatment for fever and neutropenia

When are antibiotics changed?

If your child becomes unwell (for example, they have low blood pressure), they will receive different antibiotics to make sure the infection is treated properly.

If your child continues to have a fever but is otherwise stable, they will continue to receive the same antibiotics.

If your child was given more than one antibiotic when their fever started, your child's team will stop some of them after two or three days when possible.

When can my child stop receiving antibiotics?



Your child will stop receiving all antibiotics when **all of the following happen**:

- Their fever is gone for at least 24 hours
- There is still no sign of an infection in the blood culture taken at least 48 hours ago
- There are no signs of skin, lung or other infections
- Their white blood cell count starts to improve
Some children who are at a lower risk for an infection may stop receiving antibiotics before their white blood cell count starts to improve.



What happens if my child continues to have fever and neutropenia for more than 4 days?

They may have a fungal infection

If your child is at a higher risk for a fungal infection:

Your child will receive an antifungal medication and the following tests will be done to look for signs of a fungal infection:

- A CT scan of the lungs
- An ultrasound of the abdomen

Example of higher risk:

- They have acute myeloid leukemia

If your child is at a lower risk for a fungal infection:

They may or may not receive an antifungal medication.

Example of lower risk:

- They have a solid tumour