

## **Antimicrobe therapy of infective endocarditis**

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Antibiotics are the basis of treatment of bacterial endocarditis. Until the discovery and use of antibiotics, the mortality from this disease was 100%. The use of antibiotics has reduced mortality to below 30%. Antibiotic therapy eradicates all microbes from vegetation. The antibiotic in therapy of infective endocarditis has to be bactericidal agent, in accordance with the antibiogram, applied to a maximum dose that penetrates the vegetation, and has to be applied long enough. In critically ill patients antibiotic therapy should be started immediately after taking blood cultures, but in stable patients it is better to wait for blood culture results and antibiogram. These patients should be treated in intensive care units and should be under constant observation. In patients who respond well to initial treatment, if they are not febrile and have no complications, the possibility of continuing treatment at home should be considered. Eradication of the microorganisms is verified by blood cultures, 2- 8 weeks after completion of antibiotic treatment.

**Key words:** antibiotics, bacterial endocarditis