

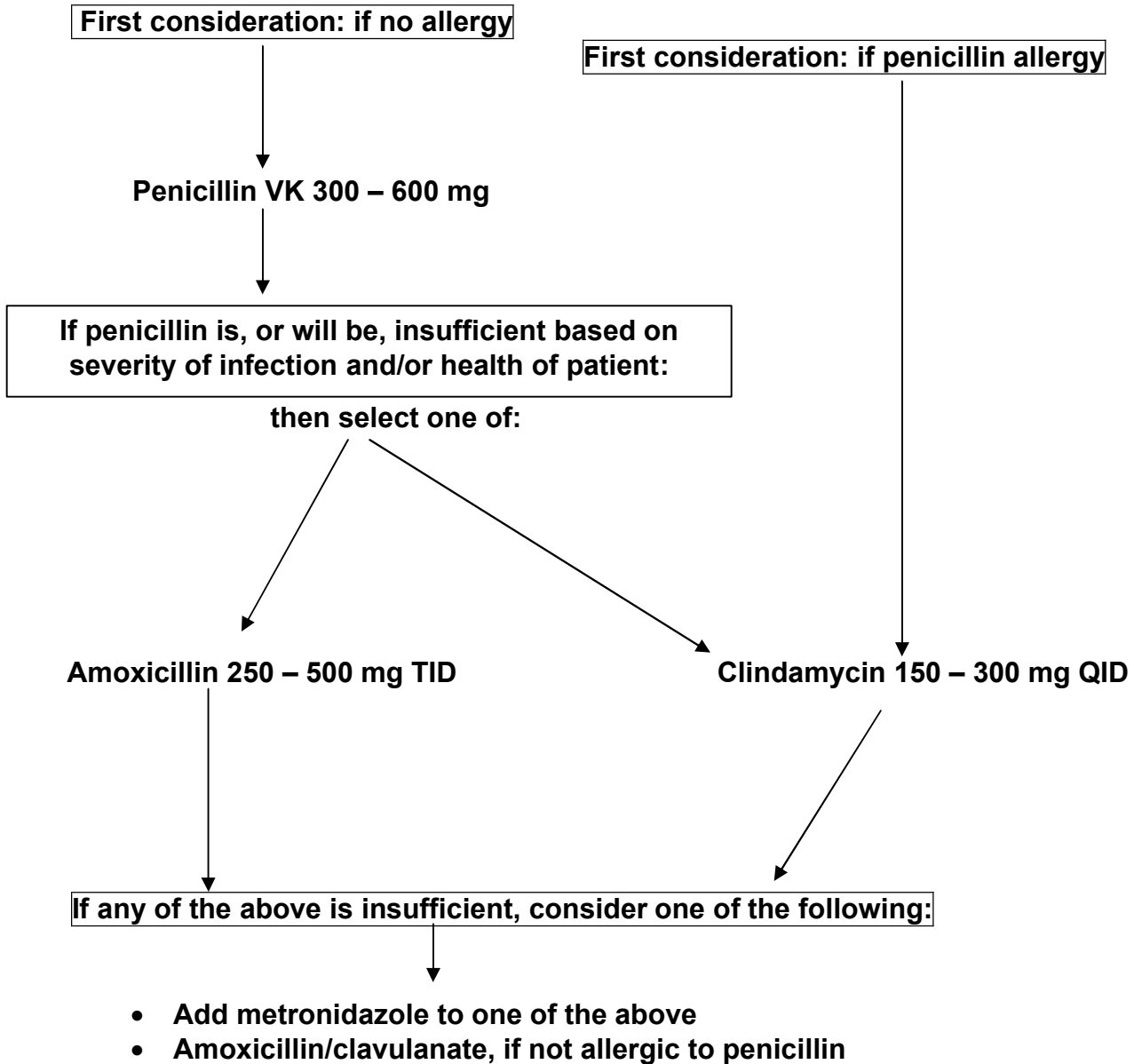
## **ANTIBIOTICS IN DENTAL EMERGENCIES**

The following points should be taken into account when considering prescribing antibiotics:

- They are not a substitute for establishing adequate drainage.
- Use only when there is an indication, such as:
  - cellulitis
  - trismus
  - lymphadenopathy
  - fever
  - malaise
  - immunocompromised patient
- Use only when the risk/benefit balance is favourable.
- Choose the narrowest spectrum drug that will be effective.
- Choose the drug with the fewest side effects.
- Consider a loading dose.
- Prescribe an adequate dose.
- Prescribe for an appropriate duration (consider higher doses for a shorter period of time).
- Penicillin, amoxicillin and clindamycin are considered acceptable to give to the pregnant patient who requires one of them.
- Avoid potential drug interactions and do not select these antibiotics if the following drugs are being taken:
  - Do not use metronidazole if the patient is on any one of: alcohol, warfarin or lithium.
  - Do not use erythromycin or clarithromycin if the patient is on any one of: bromocriptine, carbamazepine, cyclosporine, digoxin, felodipine, midazolam (if p.o.), prednisone, triazolam, warfarin or a xanthine.

With the above information, the dentist can then proceed to follow an algorithm, based on the answers to the following questions, to determine an appropriate antibiotic. Dosing regimens are listed following the algorithm.

## ALGORITHM FOR ANTIBIOTIC USE



The above algorithm should be considered to assist management of an acute orofacial infection in the adult.

## **DOSING REGIMENS FOR ANTIBIOTICS**

| <b><u>Drug</u></b> (listed alphabetically) | <b><u>Adult Dose</u></b>                      |
|--|---|
| amoxicillin                                | 250-500mg TID                                 |
| amoxicillin/clavulanate (Clavulin™)        | 250-500mg TID                                 |
| azithromycin                               | 500mg on day 1, then 250mg days 2-5           |
| cephalexin                                 | 250-500mg QID                                 |
| clarithromycin                             | 250-500mg BID                                 |
| clindamycin                                | 150-300mg QID                                 |
| cloxacillin                                | 250-500mg QID                                 |
| doxycycline                                | 100mg QD or BID                               |
| erythromycin                               | 250-500mg QID                                 |
| metronidazole                              | 250-500mg TID (low range of doses can be QID) |
| penicillin V                               | 300-600mg QID                                 |

## **PEDIATRIC DOSES**

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| amoxicillin  | 7 – 13 mg/kg TID |
| clindamycin  | 2 – 6 mg/kg QID  |
| penicillin V | 6 – 12 mg QID    |

## **REFERENCES:**

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