

## **Key Sinusitis Study Talking Points for the Research Team**

Your child has a sinus infection. Sometimes doctors treat sinus infections with antibiotics right away. Other times, doctors choose to wait a few days to see if symptoms improve on their own. We don't know which option is better.

We do know that most sinus infections get better on their own, even without antibiotics. This is because many children diagnosed with sinusitis just have a cold. Colds are caused by viruses and do not get better with antibiotics.

We also know that antibiotics have side effects, such as diarrhea or allergic reaction. Antibiotics can also cause the germs in your child's body to become resistant. This makes it harder for doctors to treat future infections. So giving an antibiotic immediately to every child with a sinus infection may do some harm.

That is why we are doing a study to find out whether it is better to treat a sinus infection with an antibiotic right away, or if it is better to wait a few days to see if symptoms improve on their own.

If you decide to enroll in our study, your child will start taking an antibiotic or placebo, which is a medicine that looks, smells and tastes like the antibiotic but does not have the antibiotic component. We are not testing any new drugs. Your child would have a 50/50 chance of either receiving an antibiotic or placebo. You will not know and we will not know which treatment your child receives. This is OK because we will be following your child closely, and because we do not know which is the best option.

We will ask you to take a few minutes each day to fill out a diary that will let us know how your child is feeling. If your child is getting better, there is no need to change treatment. If your child's symptoms are not improving, we will start antibiotic treatment.

Today we will also get a sample of mucus from your child's nose to see what bacteria may be causing your child's problem. We will provide you the study medication and show you how to complete the study diary. After today, we will see your child for one more brief visit in 2 weeks.