



STREP A INFECTION

Department of Health and Human Services



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Strep A infection is caused by one type of the bacteria called *Streptococcus*. Strep A is often found in the throat or on the skin. Most strep A infections, such as strep throat, are very mild, but sometimes strep A can reach other parts of the body and can kill muscle and fat tissue. It can also cause kidney and liver damage and can infect your lungs. These more serious forms of strep A can cause shock and even death. You can help prevent the more serious kinds of strep A. If your throat is sore, get tested for strep throat from your doctor or clinic. If you have strep throat, stay home for at least one full day after you start taking an antibiotic. That way you will avoid making others sick. If you get a cut or scrape, keep it clean. If it gets red, swells, drains, or hurts a lot, it might be infected. See your doctor right away, especially if you also have a fever.

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