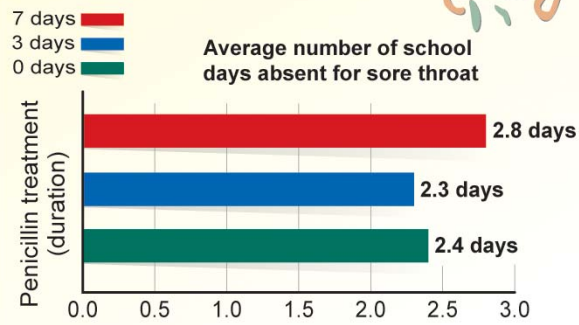


## Penicillin No Better Than Placebo for Sore Throat

Acute sore throat is a major reason for pediatric visits to primary care physicians, but a recent well-designed study shows the common prescription – penicillin – is no more effective than placebo in resolving symptoms, even when group A *streptococci* is the culprit.



SOURCE: Zwart S, Rovers MM, de Melker RA, et al. Penicillin for acute sore throat in children: randomized, double-blind trial. *British Medical Journal* (online), Dec. 6, 2003. Free access at [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com).