



# IV Antibiotics & Chronic Sinusitis

Increasing information indicates that intravenous antibiotics play a significant role in improving the severe sinusitis and can be used in the patient who is not a surgical candidate, pre and post operatively or just postoperatively. Chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS) appears to be an entity with multi-factorial causes. While traditional medical and surgical therapy often helps many with CRS, there are those patients whose disease persists in spite of the best efforts. In these patients often the sinus cavity is open yet mucopurulent secretions continue. For many patients there is severe infection before surgery and they need to have the inflammation reduced to minimize bleeding at the time of surgery. Others have severe rhinosinusitis found at the time of surgery and need additional treatment postoperatively. A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that infection within the sinus bones seems to be the culprit for some patients. Antibiotics must get into the bone to eradicate infection. While the initial basis for treatment comes from the orthopedic medical treatment for osteomyelitis, there is the suggestion that osteitis is a part of CRS. Orthopedists know that only about 10-30% of oral antibiotics get into the serum and therefore Osteomyelitis is typically treated with intravenous antibiotics for at least 6 weeks. While the sinuses are not long bones that develop osteomyelitis, evidence suggests that sinus osteitis is similar to osteomyelitis.

Patients who can benefit the most from IV therapy include those who have:

1. Not responded to traditional oral antibiotics including decongestants and steroids.
2. An unsuccessful surgery with ongoing sinus infection.
3. Other debilitating illnesses that an ongoing infection could worsen such as diabetes, kidney disease, lung conditions (such as asthma or chronic bronchitis), or a compromised immune system (such as leukemia, lymphoma, or AIDS).
4. Refused surgical treatment, yet have persistent and severe sinus infections.
5. An advanced form of sinusitis where the infection has entered the bone as well as the cavity within the bone.

When to consider IV antibiotic therapy:

**Non-Surgical:** When patients choose not to have surgery or have had an unsuccessful surgery with persistent infection.

**Pre/Post Surgery:** The patient receives IV therapy two weeks before surgery and 4-6 weeks afterwards.

**Post Surgery:** IV therapy can help promote healing and treat infection in mucus membranes and the bone.

SinuCare's Medical Advisory Board has developed an IV antibiotic protocol to help physicians clearly treat patients with chronic sinusitis. If you wish to know more about chronic sinusitis and IV antibiotics, call 800.774.SINU (7468) or click [www.SinuCare.com](http://www.SinuCare.com)

