

The Truth  *About Health*

MDs BLAME PARENTS FOR ANTIBIOTIC ABUSE

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Many health professionals claim pediatricians unnecessarily prescribe antibiotics for children. Yet, according to a study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, doctors say parents are to blame.

According to the article, pediatricians give these often harmful and unnecessary drugs to children because parents demand them. Ironically, the study also faulted parents for giving their children antibiotics without seeking physician advice – even though it acknowledged that physicians will often prescribe the drugs anyway, merely because the parent requested them.

Doctors conducting the study stated:

“Growing bacterial resistance to antibiotics represents a global threat to the health of the world’s population. If parents can better understand the role of antibiotics in the treatment of disease, they may exert less pressure on physicians to dispense antibiotics inappropriately.”

The study focused its criticism on the parents rather than on the doctors who often fail to act in the parents’ best interest by failing to educate parents and instead provide drugs on demand.

SOURCE: American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatrics electronic pages, June 2, 1997