[IMAGE]

## **Antibiotics Increase Risk of Juvenile Arthritis**

By Editorial Staff

We generally think of <u>arthritis</u> as a disease of aging, although in reality, it can strike anyone, regardless of age, race, gender or occupation. In fact, a recent study not only points out that our youth can be affected by the disease, but also that an all-too-common culprit may be to blame: antibiotic use.

In the study, childhood antibiotic exposure increased the risk of idiopathic (of unknown cause) juvenile arthritis in dose-dependent fashion compared to no exposure. In other words, the more doses of antibiotics received during childhood, the higher the risk of developing arthritis compared to receiving no doses.

<u>arthritis - Copyright â Stock Photo / Register Mark Specifically</u>, any antibiotic use increased the risk by 110 percent, while five or more courses of antibiotics increased the risk by a whopping 200 percent compared to no use. The association between antibiotic use was strongest for exposures within one year of diagnosis.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only <u>negative health consequence</u> associated with antibiotic use – just the latest reported in the peer-reviewed research literature. Talk to your doctor for more information, particularly before you fill that next antibiotic prescription. There may be a better (and definitely safer) way.

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