

Mayo Clinic Minute :

Is your child's sore throat actually strep throat?

Video	Audio
	Your child complains of an itchy sore throat that hurts when they swallow. Most often, it's a viral infection that will go away on its own.
	You can treat the symptoms, but there is no cure for a cold or flu virus, says Dr. Tina Ardon.
Tina Ardon, M.D. Family Medicine Mayo Clinic	"Antibiotics simply won't work for a viral infection."
	If your child complains of throat pain without coughing, it may be a sign of different upper respiratory illness.
	"Strep throat is a specific bacterial infection that can happen in the back of the throat."
	Telltale signs include tiny red spots on at the back of the roof of the mouth, or red and swollen tonsils.
	"If it's strep throat, you're only going to have symptoms related to the back of the throat: fever, maybe a headache and then the sore throat."
	Your health care provider can do lab tests to confirm if it's strep throat and offer antibiotics to treat the bacterial infection.
	"If a child has other symptoms, such as a runny nose, sneezing, coughing, it's highly unlikely we're dealing with strep throat."
	Plenty of rest and warm, soothing liquids will help.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.