

Strep Throat



Caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes*, commonly known as group A streptococcus. These bacteria are highly contagious. They can spread through droplets when someone with the infection coughs or sneezes, shares food or drinks or touches frequently shared objects.

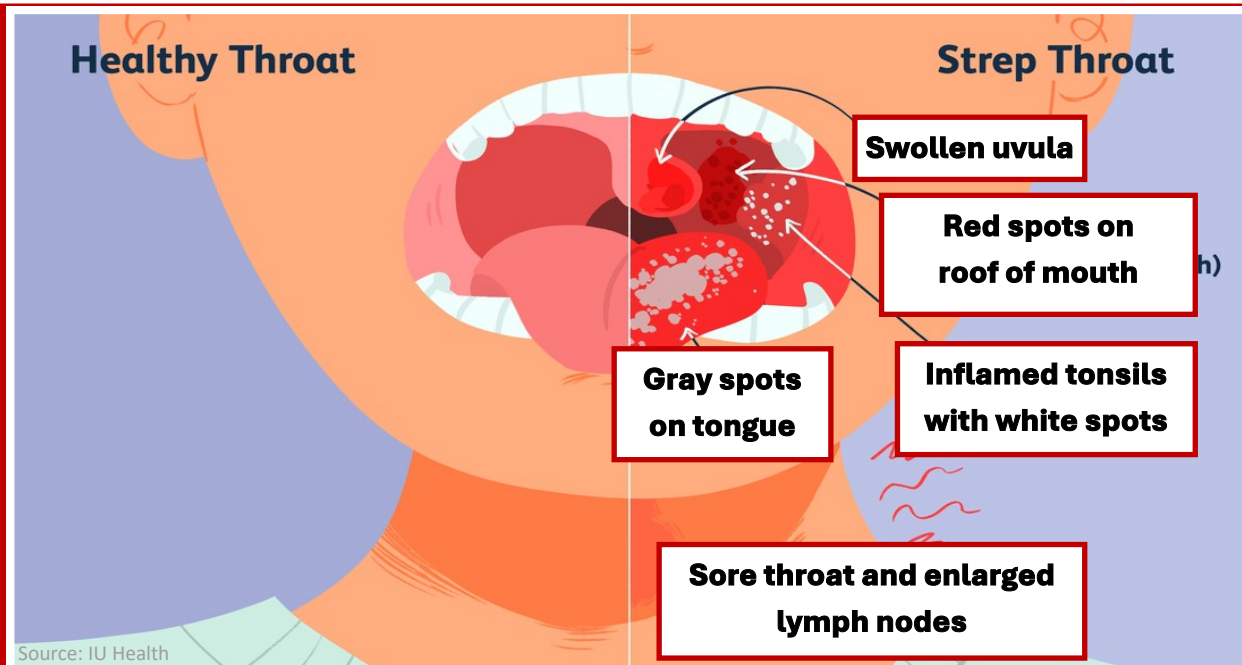
Diagnosis: Rapid strep test or throat culture

Frequency: responsible for 5-15% of U.S. adult sore throats, and 15-35% of U.S. childhood sore throats.

Treatment: Antibiotics (often penicillin or amoxicillin)

Illness Duration: 7-10 days

Isolation: Infected people are highly contagious and should take precautions or stay home until 24-48 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment.



Other possible symptoms: fever, difficulty swallowing, headache, body aches, nausea and rash.

Severe complications are rare but may include: kidney inflammation, rheumatic fever, inflamed joints and/or heart damage. Contact your doctor if symptoms worsen or do not improve with antibiotics.