

Azithromycin administered for acute bronchiolitis may have a protective effect on subsequent wheezing.

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- A significant proportion of the infants developed recurrent wheezing after an acute bronchiolitis event. Recent studies have demonstrated protection for recurrent wheeze and lower respiratory morbidity in infants treated with azithromycin.
- This is a secondary analysis of a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial, including unpublished data of wheezing and hospitalizations during the initial 6 months following admission for acute viral bronchiolitis.
- Infants (<12 months of age) hospitalized with acute bronchitis were randomized to receive either azithromycin (n=50) or placebo (n=54), administered orally, for 7 days.
- The recurrence rate of wheezing in the azithromycin group was significantly lower than placebo group (Relative Risk = 0.48) after 3 months.

Azithromycin significantly reduces the risk of subsequent wheezing between 0 & 3 months after hospital admission due to acute bronchiolitis irrespective of the presence of respiratory syncytial virus.