

Name _____

Choosing the Right Tool: Broad-Spectrum vs. Narrow-Spectrum Antibiotics

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Broad-spectrum antibiotics cover a wide range of bacteria, including both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, while narrow-spectrum antibiotics target specific types of bacteria, either Gram-positive or Gram-negative.
2. It's important for healthcare providers to consider the choice between broad-spectrum and narrow-spectrum antibiotics to ensure the most appropriate treatment for the specific infection, minimize the risk of antibiotic resistance, and reduce the disruption of beneficial bacteria in the body.
3. One potential consequence of using broad-spectrum antibiotics indiscriminately is the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which can make infections more challenging to treat and pose a threat to public health.
4. One strategy to minimize the risk of antibiotic resistance associated with the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics is to promote antibiotic stewardship programs that encourage appropriate antibiotic use, including targeted therapy with narrow-spectrum antibiotics whenever possible.

