This graphic summarises guidance on choice of antibiotic for the treatment of Lyme disease, produced by the UK’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). They recommend offering one initial course of antibiotics, and considering a second course of an alternative antibiotic for people with ongoing symptoms. If a person’s symptoms continue following two completed courses of antibiotics, their advice is to consider discussion with a national reference laboratory or referral to a specialist appropriate for the person’s symptoms.

**Lyme disease**

- **Affecting the cranial nerves or peripheral nervous system**
  - 1st Doxycycline: 21 days Oral
  - 2nd Amoxicillin: 21 days Oral
  - 3rd Azithromycin: 17 days Oral

- **Affecting the central nervous system**
  - 1st Ceftriaxone: 21 days IV
  - 2nd Doxycycline: 21 days Oral
  - 3rd Ceftriaxone: 28 days IV

- **Lyme carditis or acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans**
  - 1st Doxycycline: 21 days Oral
  - 2nd Ceftriaxone: 28 days IV
  - 3rd Ceftriaxone: 28 days IV

**Dosing recommendations**

- **Doxycycline**
  - Age 12+ Children 45kg +
    - Day 1: 100mg 2x per day
    - Subsequent days: 200mg 2x per day
  - Children 9–12 years under 45kg
    - Day 1: 5mg per kg 2 divided doses
    - Subsequent days: 2.5mg per kg up to 5mg/kg in severe cases

- **Azithromycin**
  - Age 12+ Children 50kg +
    - 500mg daily
  - Children under 50kg
    - 10mg per kg daily

- **Ceftriaxone**
  - Age 12+ Children 50kg +
    - 80mg per kg daily
  - Children under 50kg
    - 2g 2x per day of 4g daily

- **Amoxicillin**
  - Age 12+ Children 33kg +
    - 1g 3x per day
  - Children under 33kg
    - 30mg per kg 3x per day

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