

# PROPHYLAXIS WITH BENZYL PENICILLIN: WHAT PARENTS ASK FOR

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Summarised by: dott.ssa Emanuela Ferrarin and dr. Michael Morton (February 2026)



This letter was submitted by parents from the Italian Facebook group 'Rheumatic Endocarditis, Chorea and/or PANDAS' to the editor of the Italian medical and scientific journal aimed at paediatricians "Medico e Bambino". The parents have been supporting each other since 2020. They are asking for a drug formulated with anaesthetic to counteract the pain caused by regular antibiotic injections prescribed. They also request that the setting where this injection is given should be reviewed and adapted (more comfortable, with the right approach from staff and good communication) to meet needs of their children. The letter also reports the experience of one family, describing how the lack of a prevention programme with these supports has affected their daughter.

The letter ends with discussion of the action taken so far by parents, who have contacted and shared the problem with health institutions, associations, and paediatric scientific societies. One of the main issues remains the failure to market the drug formulated with anaesthetic ("Tarlidocin"), even though it has been registered in Italy for five years. To overcome this problem, in March 2025, the "Burlo Garofolo", scientific institute for hospitalisation and treatment, formally requested that the national regulatory agency include an alternative drug formulated with the anaesthetic in a special Law (L 648/96), aiming to make it uniformly available in the country.

In the same issue of the Journal as the letter there is an article "Acute rheumatic fever: the pain knot in intramuscular prophylaxis", available at <https://doi.org/10.53126/MEB45036>, (written by paediatricians and hospital pharmacist of the "Burlo Garofolo" Institute), which describes the state of the art in preventive therapy, indicating the need to adopt a drug formulated with anaesthetic as a primary measure to limit pain.