Non adherence to a full course of antibiotic occurs in approximately one-quarter of paediatric patients. The child’s refusal to take the drug is the second most common reason for non-adherence. Palatability is the third most important antibiotic feature for parents after effectiveness and safety.

**Objective**
Review the literature for assessment of the palatability of antibiotic oral suspensions to inform physicians in their daily practice and consequently improve adherence.

**Materials & methods**
- **Inclusion criteria**
  - Study reporting an assessment of palatability of one or more antibiotic suspensions with any assessment scale
  - Data extracted
    - Study characteristics
    - Population demographics
    - Palatability assessments

- **Results reporting**
  - Lowest score = poor palatability
  - Highest score = excellent palatability
  - All results are expressed on a 10-point scale for comparison purposes
  - Separate averages were calculated for adults and children

**Results**
- **Study characteristics**
  - 10 studies identified
  - Only blind studies
  - 9/10 with healthy volunteers
  - 6 adults only
  - 1 children only
  - 3 adults & children
  - Children between 4 to 12 years old

- **Drugs**
  - Adults: 24 drugs
  - Children: 14 drugs
  - Total: 27 different drugs tested

**Assessment tools**
- **4/10 visual analogic scale with 5-point facial hedonic scales**
  - Example: Super Good, Bad, Maybe Good, Maybe Bad

**Average palatability below 5/10**
- **12/24 drugs**
  - Adults
  - Children

- The palatability score is lower in adults than in children 10 times out of 11.
- The average difference between the scores of adults and children scores is 1.1 point/10

**Discussion & Conclusion**
The majority of the most common antibiotics are covered. Differences in the assessment of palatability sometimes exist for the same molecule. This may be related to the formulation tested (brand name or generic drugs). A single study allows a direct comparison between adults and children. Further investigations are needed to determine the factors affecting the palatability of drugs. However, the available palatability assessments can help the physician to choose between several drugs with the same effectiveness and safety to improve compliance.