

Table 2 Prescribing of antibiotics by dental practitioners for selected clinical signs and patient expectations (*n* = 219)

Clinical sign	Would prescribe	
	No.	%
Gross diffuse swelling ^a	193	88.3
Elevated temperature and evidence of systemic spread ^a	185	84.4
Closure of the eye because of swelling ^a	178	81.4
Difficulty in swallowing	103	46.9
Localized fluctuant swelling	101	46.0
Restricted mouth opening	94	42.7
Patient's expectation for a prescription	39	17.7

^aClinical signs that that need antibiotic treatment.