

2023

Nelson's Pediatric Antimicrobial Therapy

29th Edition

John S. Bradley, MD Editor in Chief

John D. Nelson, MD Emeritus

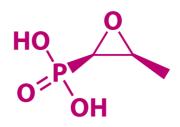
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Contributing Editors



American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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345 Park Blvd

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Editor in Chief

John S. Bradley, MD, FAAP

Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics
Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of
Pediatrics

University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine

Medical Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Rady Children's Hospital San Diego San Diego. CA

Lead editor: Chapters 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 14, and 15

Emeritus

John D. Nelson, MD

Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Southwestern Medical School Dallas, TX

Contributing Editors

Elizabeth D. Barnett, MD, FAAP

Professor of Pediatrics

Boston University Aram V. Chobanian & Edward Avedisian School of Medicine Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Director, International Clinic Boston Medical Center

Lead editor: Chapters 9 and 10

Joseph B. Cantey, MD, MPH, FAAP

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Divisions of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and
Neonatology/Perinatal Medicine
University of Texas Health Science Center at
San Antonio

San Antonio, TX

Lead editor: Chapters 2 and 17

David W. Kimberlin, MD, FAAP

Professor of Pediatrics

Co-director, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, AL

Lead editor: Chapters 7 and 8

Paul E. Palumbo, MD

Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth Director, International Pediatric HIV Program Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Lebanon. NH

Lead editor: HIV treatment

Contributing Editors (continued)

Jason Sauberan, PharmD

Neonatal Research Institute Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns Rady Children's Hospital San Diego San Diego, CA

Lead editor: Chapters 2, 3, 13, and 18

J. Howard Smart, MD, FAAP

Chairman, Department of Pediatrics Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine San Diego, CA Lead editor: App development

William J. Steinbach, MD, FAAP

Robert H. Fiser, Jr, MD, Endowed Chair in Pediatrics Chair, Department of Pediatrics Associate Dean for Child Health University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Pediatrician-in-Chief, Arkansas Children's Little Rock, AR

Lead editor: Chapters 5 and 6

Additional Contributor

Christopher R. Cannavino, MD

Divisions of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Medicine

University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

Rady Children's Hospital San Diego Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Director, UCSD Pediatric Infectious Disease Fellowship Program

Associate Director, UCSD Pediatric Residency Program

Director, Pediatric Medical Student Education, UCSD School of Medicine

San Diego, CA

Lead editor: Chapter 16

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Introduction

Welcome to the 29th edition of *Nelson's Pediatric Antimicrobial Therapy*, the third edition written during the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to significantly affect our lives and our practice of pediatrics. Thank goodness that COVID-19 vaccines are available for all children older than 6 months! All the other pediatric infections (particularly viral infections) are now coming back with a vengeance, as all of you are experiencing. We maintain close contact between our American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Publishing colleagues and our group of editors, who continue to provide clinical care and conduct research while creating policy for pediatric COVID-19 on both local and national levels.

The chapters have all been updated, supported by the medical literature and by our opinions and justifications when the literature does not provide answers. More than 100 new citations and updates to web pages are again provided to support recommendations. The Nelson's app has continued to evolve, particularly the search functions, under Dr Howard Smart's direction (he uses the app in his pediatric practice), and it is easier for me to find information on the app than in the print book. Howard wishes to keep improving the app, so if anyone has some thoughts on how we can make it even easier for you to find information, please just let us know at nelsonabx@aap.org. Peter Lynch, senior manager, publishing acquisitions and digital strategy, has been very supportive of the digital presence of *Nelson's*, including the app; we are still trying to get the app into some of the most often used electronic medical records (EMRs) so you can look up infections, antimicrobials, and doses while updating a child's EMR. As new important information becomes available (eg, as new drugs are approved), we share that information with Howard to add to the app and it is periodically "pushed out" to the registered users. We continue to appreciate the ongoing advice of our digitally savvy colleagues, Dr Juan Chaparro (a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH) and Dr Daniel Sklansky (a pediatric hospitalist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison), who share their medical informatics expertise with us to improve our digital user experience and who continue to work with Peter to explore options for the app in EMRs.

We are quite fortunate to have nationally/internationally recognized editors who are experts in each field contribute to the *Nelson's* chapters, both the clinical chapters and the mini-educational chapters on why they picked specific agents within a class to use for therapy. Dr Chris Cannavino (double board certified in hospital medicine and infectious diseases) continues to update his chapter on antibiotic allergies.

We continue to work closely with the AAP, and many of us have close connections with the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases, particularly Dr David Kimberlin, the editor of the *Red Book*. Although *Nelson's* is published by the AAP, it is not actually AAP policy (in contrast to the *Red Book*), so we are able to share personal observations that may not be possible in an AAP publication that requires approval by the AAP Board of Directors.

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We continue to provide grading of our recommendations—our assessment of how strongly we feel about a recommendation and the strength of the evidence to support our recommendation (noted in the Table). This is not the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation) method but certainly uses the concepts on which GRADE is based: the strength of recommendation and level of evidence. As with GRADE, we review the literature (and the most important manuscripts are referenced), but importantly, we work within the context of professional society recommendations (eg, the AAP) and our experience.

Strength of Recommendation	Description
A	Strongly recommended
В	Recommended as a good choice
С	One option for therapy that is adequate, perhaps among many other adequate therapies
Level of Evidence	Description
ı	Based on well-designed, prospective, randomized, and controlled studies in an appropriate population of children
II	Based on data derived from prospectively collected, small comparative trials, or noncomparative prospective trials, or reasonable retrospective data from clinical trials in children, or data from other populations (eg, adults)
III	Based on case reports, case series, consensus statements, or expert opinion for situations in which sound data do not exist

As we state each year, many of the recommendations by the editors for specific situations have not been systematically evaluated in controlled, prospective, comparative clinical trials.

Mary Kelly, senior editor, professional and clinical publishing, continues to do an impressive job organizing the editors and being an outstanding advocate for us and the clinicianusers of the book, making sure that all the COVID-19 delays (including paper shortages for the print publication) do not stop the *Nelson's* editors from meeting our deadlines!

It has been a privilege to work with all our friends at AAP Publishing, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ability to share our book at professional society meetings and publisher meetings was greatly affected by COVID-19 as we all tried to work from home (unless we were in the hospital or clinics). We have started to plan for the future of *Nelson's* with AAP colleagues, trying to make the book more relevant for clinicians in

both outpatient and inpatient settings. A particular thanks to Mary Kelly and Peter Lynch, highlighted above; to Mark Grimes, vice president, publishing; to Jeff Mahony, senior director, professional and consumer publishing; and to the ever-enthusiastic Linda Smessaert, director, marketing. We will be reengaging with Barrett Winston, senior manager, publishing acquisitions and business development, as we look to create our long-term vision of John Nelson's book. We are all truly honored to keep his goals of providing better care to children as our focus in the evolving book and app.

We continue to be very interested in learning from readers and users ways to improve *Nelson's*! Please feel free to share your suggestions with us at nelsonabx@aap.org. Fosfomycin, a very early cell wall synthesis inhibitor, is our molecule of the year.

Hopefully, all of you are safe. We are looking forward to collaborating with everyone at meetings again, even if some of us may still be wearing masks.

John S. Bradley, MD July 2022

Notable Changes to 2023 Nelson's Pediatric Antimicrobial Therapy, 29th Edition

We are quite grateful to Dr Howard Smart for the continual upgrading of the *Nelson's* app search function. We will be linking "similar" terms for each disease entity, based on National Library of Medicine search libraries, so the different terminology used by clinicians better matches the terminology used by an editor (eg, "suppurative lymphadenitis" vs "cervical lymph node abscess").

Bacterial/Mycobacterial Infections and Antibiotics

Last year, we shifted our recommendation for serious, invasive methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections from vancomycin to ceftaroline, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved for all pediatric age-groups, including neonates. We are still holding off on recommendations for MRSA endocarditis and central nervous system infections, as the US companies that have owned the antibiotic (Cerexa/Forest/ Actavis/Allergan/AbbVie) have not supported prospective pediatric clinical trials for these indications. We do select antibiotics based on safety, and it is nice to forgo our monitoring of renal function and vancomycin serum concentrations in the treatment of coagulase-negative and coagulase-positive staphylococci that are methicillin resistant.

Many new antibiotics are coming out for treatment of multidrug-resistant (MDR) gramnegative bacilli, particularly serine-based carbapenemase-producing organisms. So far, only one is approved for children (ceftazidime/avibactam), but others are not far behind. Some of the new beta-lactam/beta-lactamase inhibitors for metallo-beta-lactamases are now in clinical trials.

Bacteriophages are now becoming options for treatment of MDR bacteria. Resistance can develop quickly, and combination therapy (>1 bacteriophage, given in combination with antibiotics) seems to be the best option. No bacteriophages are FDA approved for human use at this time.

Dalbavancin, a once-weekly lipoglycopeptide antibiotic for MRSA infections, was approved for children this past year and has found a place in long-term parenteral MRSA infection treatment as an option for children in whom long-term central catheters are not a good option. Other anti-MRSA antibiotics are still under study in children.

New guidelines for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (now just called "infection") with once-weekly prophylaxis for 12 weeks, and for shorter courses of treatment of pediatric tuberculosis disease, are now being recommended.

New guidelines for treatment of pediatric osteomyelitis are now recommending only 3 to 4 weeks of treatment of uncomplicated methicillin-susceptible *S aureus* bone infection.

Fungal Infections and Antifungal Agents

New global guidelines for treatment of endemic mycoses (including blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, and sporotrichosis) were recently published in an attempt to harmonize diagnosis and management ("One World, One Guideline").

xiv — Notable Changes to 2023 Nelson's Pediatric Antimicrobial Therapy, 29th Edition

New additional studies with ibrexafungerp (Brexafemme), a new oral triterpenoid antifungal with activity against *Candida* have been published. Current FDA approved indication is for vulvoyaginal *Candida* in post-menarchal females.

Viral Infections and Antiviral Agents

HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) are 2 areas in which change continues to be very rapid. Current recommendations about HIV and antiretrovirals, including those for the treatment of newborns exposed to HIV, are posted on ClinicalInfo.HIV.gov (https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov), which is continually updated. Current recommendations on treatment of HCV are posted on www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/children. There are now 3 HCV antiviral treatments approved for use down to 3 years of age: (1) sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) and sofosbuvir in a fixed-dose combination tablet with ledipasvir (Harvoni); (2) sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa); and (3) glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Mavyret). In addition, elbasvir with grazoprevir (Zepatier) is now approved down to 12 years of age.

Remdesivir, a nucleoside antiviral that inhibits viral RNA polymerases, was authorized for emergency use on May 1, 2020, for the treatment of hospitalized children who have documented or suspected COVID-19 and require supplemental oxygen. It now is approved for use in patients 28 days or older and at least 3 kg in weight with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, who are hospitalized or who are not hospitalized and have mild to moderate COVID-19 and risk factors for progression to severe COVID-19. Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) has Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in people 12 years or older and 40 kg or more in weight; it has numerous drug-drug interactions, so the listing on the FDA or Pfizer website should be reviewed before prescribing. In addition, molnupiravir has EUA from the FDA for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults 18 years or older.

Next, a new cytomegalovirus (CMV) antiviral drug, maribavir, has been approved for the treatment of adults and pediatric patients (aged ≥12 years and weighing at least 35 kg) with posttransplant CMV infection/disease that is refractory to treatment (with or without genotypic resistance) with ganciclovir, valganciclovir, cidofovir, or foscarnet. Following letermovir, this is the second new CMV antiviral with a novel mechanism of action to be approved in the past few years.

Finally, Cabenuva (an injectable, long-acting combination of cabotegravir and rilpivirine) has recently been approved for HIV treatment in 12- to 18-year-olds. It requires an oral lead-in dosing period followed by dual injections every 2 months for treatment of HIV infection. The complexity of this strategy supports the initiation and management by a pediatric/adult HIV specialty team.

Parasitic Infections and Antiparasitic Agents

We continue to encourage readers faced with diagnosing and treating children with malaria and uncommon parasitic infections to contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for consultation about management and antiparasitic drug availability (770/488-7100). We have updated the sections on leishmaniasis and human African trypanosomiasis, but readers are encouraged to check current guidelines and seek expert advice if treating patients with these conditions, due to the evolving nature of the management of these conditions. Availability and sources of drugs to treat parasitic infections change frequently (sodium stibogluconate is no longer available, intravenous artesunate is no longer provided by the CDC, and fexinidazole has been approved by the FDA), so clinicians are encouraged to check recent sources of information for the most up-to-date recommendations.

1. Antimicrobial Therapy According to Clinical Syndromes

NOTES

- This chapter should be considered guidance for a typical patient. Dosage recommendations are for patients with normal hydration, renal, and hepatic function. Because the dose required is based on the exposure of the antibiotic to the pathogen at the site of infection, higher dosages may be necessary if the antibiotic does not penetrate well into the infected tissue (eg, meningitis) or if the child eliminates the antibiotic from the body more quickly than average. Higher dosages/longer courses may also be needed if the child is immunocompromised and the immune system cannot help resolve the infection. It is becoming more apparent that the host contributes significantly to microbiological and clinical cure above and beyond the antimicrobial-attributable effect. Most of the doses reviewed and approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are from the original clinical trials for drug registration, unless a safety issue becomes apparent when the label is modified or in cases in which the original industry sponsor of an antibiotic wishes to pursue approval for additional infection sites ("indications") and conducts new prospective clinical trials to share with the FDA. The original sponsor of the drug may not have studied all pathogens at all sites of infection in neonates, infants, and children. The FDA carefully reviews data presented to it but is not required to review the entire literature on each antibiotic and update the package labels. If the FDA has not reviewed data for a specific indication (eg, ampicillin for group A streptococcal cellulitis), there is usually no opinion about whether the drug may or may not work. Ampicillin is not "approved" for skin and soft tissue infections caused by any bacteria. That does not mean that the drug does not work or is unsafe; rather, data on safety and efficacy have not been presented to the FDA to expand the package label. The editors will provide suggestions for clinical situations that may not have been reviewed and approved by the FDA. These recommendations are considered off-label, signifying that safety and efficacy data have not been reviewed by the FDA at its high level of rigor.
- Duration of treatment should be individualized. Durations recommended are based on the literature, common practice, and general experience. Critical evaluations of the duration of therapy have been carried out in very few infectious diseases. In general, a more extended period of treatment should be used (1) for tissues in which antibiotic concentrations may be relatively low (eg, undrained abscess, central nervous system [CNS] infection); (2) for tissues in which repair following infection-mediated damage is slow (eg, bone); (3) when the organisms are less susceptible; (4) when a relapse of infection is unacceptable (eg, CNS infections); or (5) when the host is immunocompromised in some way. An assessment after therapy will ensure that your selection of antibiotic, dose, and duration of treatment was appropriate. Until prospective, comparative studies are performed for different durations, we cannot assign a specific increased risk of failure for shorter courses. We support the need for these studies in an outpatient or inpatient controlled clinical research setting.

- Our approach to therapy is continuing to move away from the concept that "one dose fits all." In addition to the dose that provides antibiotic exposure and host immunocompetence, the concept of target attainment is being better defined. The severity of illness and the willingness of the practitioner to accept a certain rate of failure need to be considered; hence, broad-spectrum, high-dose treatment is used for a child in florid septic shock (where you need to be right virtually 100% of the time), compared with the child with impetigo (where a treatment that is approximately 70% effective is acceptable, as you can see the child back in the office in a few days and alter the therapy as necessary).
- Diseases in this chapter are arranged by body systems. Please consult Chapter 3 for an
 alphabetized listing of bacterial and mycobacterial pathogens and uncommon organisms not included in this chapter.
 - A more detailed description of treatment options for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections and multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacilli infections, including a stepwise approach to increasingly broad-spectrum agents, is provided in Chapter 12. Although, in the past, vancomycin has been the mainstay of therapy for invasive MRSA, it is nephrotoxic and ototoxic, and it requires monitoring renal function and serum drug concentrations. Its use against organisms with a minimal inhibitory concentration of 2 or greater may not provide adequate exposure for a cure with safe, realistic pediatric doses. Ceftaroline, the first MRSA-active beta-lactam antibiotic approved by the FDA for adults in 2010, children in 2016, and neonates in 2019, is as effective for most staphylococcal tissue site infections (no controlled data on CNS infections) as vancomycin, but safer, and should be considered preferred therapy over vancomycin.
- · Abbreviations: AAP, American Academy of Pediatrics; ACOG, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; ADH, antidiuretic hormone; AFB, acid-fast bacilli; AHA, American Heart Association; ALT, alanine transaminase; AmB, amphotericin B; amox/clay, amoxicillin/clayulanate; AOM, acute otitis media; ARF, acute rheumatic fever; AST, aspartate transaminase; AUC:MIC, area under the curve (the mathematically calculated area below the serum concentration-versus-time curve) to minimum inhibitory concentration; BAL, bronchoalveolar lavage; bid, twice daily; BL, betalactamase; CA-MRSA, community-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus; cap, capsule; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; cephalosporin-R, cephalosporin-resistant; CF, cystic fibrosis; CMV, cytomegalovirus; CNS, central nervous system; CRP, C-reactive protein; CSD, cat-scratch disease; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; CT, computed tomography; DAT, diphtheria antitoxin; div, divided; DOT, directly observed therapy; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; ESBL, extended-spectrum beta-lactamase; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; ETEC, enterotoxin-producing Escherichia coli; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; GC, Neisseria gonorrhoeae; gentamicin-S, gentamicin-susceptible; GI, gastrointestinal; HACEK, Haemophilus aphrophilus, Aggregatibacter (formerly Actinobacillus) actinomycetemcomitans, Cardiobacterium hominis, Eikenella corrodens, Kingella species; HSV, herpes simplex

virus; HUS, hemolytic uremic syndrome; I&D, incision and drainage; ID, infectious disease; IDSA, Infectious Diseases Society of America; IM, intramuscular; INH, isoniazid; IV, intravenous; IVIG, intravenous immune globulin; KPC, Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase: L-AmB, liposomal amphotericin B; LFT, liver function test; LP, lumbar puncture; max, maximum; MDR, multidrug resistant; MIS-C, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; MRSA, methicillinresistant S aureus; MRSE, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus epidermidis; MSM, men who have sex with men; MSSA, methicillin-susceptible S aureus; MSSE, methicillinsensitive S epidermidis; ophth, ophthalmic; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; PCV13, Prevnar 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; pen-R, penicillin-resistant; pen-S, penicillin-susceptible; PIDS, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society; PIMS-TS, pediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome temporally associated with SARS-CoV-2; pip/ tazo, piperacillin/tazobactam; PMA, postmenstrual age; PO, orally; PPD, purified protein derivative; PZA, pyrazinamide; q, every; qd, once daily; qid, 4 times daily; qod, every other day; RIVUR, Randomized Intervention for Children with Vesicoureteral Reflux; RSV, respiratory syncytial virus; RT-PCR, real-time polymerase chain reaction; soln, solution; SPAG-2, small particle aerosol generator-2; spp, species; staph, staphylococcal; STEC, Shiga toxin-producing E coli; STI, sexually transmitted infection; strep, streptococcal; tab, tablet; TB, tuberculosis; Td, tetanus, diphtheria; Tdap, tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis; tid, 3 times daily; TIG, tetanus immune globulin; tol/ taz, ceftolozane/tazobactam; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole; ULN, upper limit of normal; UTI, urinary tract infection; VDRL, Venereal Disease Research Laboratories; WBC, white blood cell.

A. SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS

Clinical Diagnosis Therapy (evidence grade) Comments

NOTE: CA-MRSA (see Chapter 12) is prevalent in most areas of the world but is now decreasing, rather than increasing. 1-2 Recommendations for staph infections are given for these scenarios: standard MSSA and CA-MRSA. Antibiotic recommendations "for CA-MRSA" should be used for (1) empiric therapy in regions with >5%—10% of invasive staph caused by MRSA; (2) clinical suspicion of CA-MRSA; and (3) documented CA-MRSA infections. "Standard recommendations" refer to treatment of MSSA. Oxacillin/nafcillin are considered equivalent agents. For MSSA causing most skin and soft tissue infections and bone/joint infections, first-generation cephalosporins (ie, cephalosthin, cefazolin, cephalexin) are considered equivalent to oxacillin/methicillin, but for MSSA infections in other tissues (eg, endocarditis), cephalosporins other than first generation may not be equivalent (need more high-quality data to know with better certainty). Before using clindamycin for empiric therapy, please check your local susceptibility data for *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA and MRSA), as resistance can be as high as 40% in some locations. For MRSA skin infections caused by susceptible organisms, clindamycin and TMP/SMX provide similar clinical cure rates.

Adenitis, acute bacterial3-7

(S aureus, including CA-MRSA, and group A streptococcus; consider Bartonella [CSD] for subacute adenitis.)⁸

Also called "suppurative adenitis" or "lymph node abscess"

Empiric therapy

Standard: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AI), OR cephalexin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV or PO (AI)

div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo-<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day

IV div q8h; \geq 2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BI), OR vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV q8h (BI), OR daptomycin: 1-<2 y, 10 mg/kg IV qd; 2-6 y, 9 mg/kg IV qd; 7-11 y, 7 mg/kg qd; 12-17 y, 5 mg/kg qd (BI)

CSD: azithromycin 12 mg/kg qd (max 500 mg) for 5 days (BIII)

May need surgical drainage for staph/strep infection; not usually needed for CSD.

Additional antibiotics may not be required after drainage of mild to moderate suppurative adenitis caused by staph/strep.

For oral therapy for MSSA: cephalexin or amox/clav. For CA-MRSA: clindamycin, TMP/SMX, or linezolid. For oral therapy for group A strep: amoxicillin or penicillin V.

Daptomycin should be avoided in infants until age 1 y due to potential neurotoxicity.

Total IV + PO therapy for 7-10 days.

For CSD: this is the same high dose of azithromycin that is recommended routinely and FDA approved for strep pharyngitis.

Adenitis, nontuberculous (atypical) mycobacterial ⁹⁻¹⁴ Also called "subacute lymphadenitis"	Excision is usually curative (BII); azithromycin PO OR clarithromycin PO for 6–12 wk (with or without rifampin or ethambutol) if susceptible (BII).	Antibiotic susceptibility patterns are quite variable; cultures should guide therapy: excision >97% effective; medical treatment 60%–70% effective. No well-controlled trials are available. With surgical and medical therapy, children usually achieve symptomatic cure within 6 mo. ¹² For more resistant organisms, other antibiotics may be active, including TMP/SMX, fluoroquinolones, doxycycline, or, for parenteral therapy, amikacin, meropenem, or cefoxitin. See Chapter 3 for specific mycobacterial pathogens.
Adenitis, tuberculous ^{15,16} (Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Mycobacterium bovis)	INH 10–15 mg/kg/day (max 300 mg) PO, IV qd, for 6 mo AND rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/day (max 600 mg) PO, IV qd, for 6 mo AND PZA 30–40 mg/kg/day PO qd for first 2 mo of therapy (BI); if suspected multidrug resistance, add ethambutol 15–25 mg/kg/day PO qd. Twice-weekly dosing after initial response (2–4 wk): INH 20–30 mg/kg/day (max 900 mg) PO AND rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/day (max 600 mg) PO AND PZA 50 mg/kg/day PO qd (max 2 g)	Surgical excision is not usually indicated because organisms are treatable. Adenitis caused by <i>M bovis</i> (unpasteurized dairy product ingestion) is uniformly resistant to PZA. Treat 9–12 mo with INH and rifampin if susceptible (BII). No contraindication to fine-needle aspirate of the node for diagnosis.
Anthrax, cutaneous ¹⁷	Empiric therapy: ciprofloxacin 20–30 mg/kg/day PO div bid OR doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg) PO div bid (regardless of age) (AIII)	If susceptible, amoxicillin or clindamycin (BIII). Ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin are FDA approved for inhalational anthrax for children >6 mo and should be effective for skin infection (BIII).

A. SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS (continued) **Clinical Diagnosis** Therapy (evidence grade) Comments Bites, dog and cat3,18-24 Amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (amox/clav 7:1: Amox/clay has good Pasteurella, MSSA, and anaerobic (Pasteurella multocida: S aureus. see Aminopenicillins in Chapter 4) for 5-10 days coverage but lacks MRSA coverage. including CA-MRSA; (All). For hospitalized children, use ampicillin Ampicillin/amoxicillin plus clindamycin has good Streptococcus spp, anaerobes; Pasteurella, MSSA, MRSA, and anaerobic coverage. AND clindamycin (BII) OR ceftriaxone AND Capnocytophaga canimorsus. clindamycin (BII). For IV therapy options: ceftaroline has good Pasteurella. particularly in asplenic hosts) MSSA, and MRSA coverage but lacks Bacteroides fraailis anaerobic coverage.23 Ampicillin/sulbactam, meropenem, and pip/tazo lack MRSA coverage. Consider rabies prophylaxis²⁴ for bites from at-risk animals that were not provoked (observe animal for 10 days, if possible) (AI); state and local public health departments and the CDC can provide advice on risk and management (www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/ contacts.html; reviewed July 29, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022); consider tetanus prophylaxis. For penicillin allergy, ciprofloxacin (for Pasteurella) plus clindamycin (BIII). Tigecycline or doxycycline may be considered for Pasteurella coverage.

Bites, human^{3,20,21,25} (Eikenella corrodens; S aureus, including CA-MRSA: Streptococcus spp. anaerobes)

Amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (amox/clav 7:1; see Aminopenicillins in Chapter 4) for 5-10 days (All). For hospitalized children, use ampicillin and clindamycin (BII) OR ceftriaxone and clindamycin (BII).

Human bites have a very high infection rate (do not routinely close open wounds).

Amox/clav has good Eikenella, MSSA, and anaerobic coverage but lacks MRSA coverage.

Ampicillin/sulbactam and meropenem lack MRSA coverage. For penicillin allergy, moxifloxacin can be used.²⁵

Standard: cephalexin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (CII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div bid; for 5–7 days (CI)	For topical therapy if mild infection: mupirocin or retapamulin ointment
IV empiric therapy for non-facial cellulitis Standard: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo−<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BI) OR vancomycin 40 mg/ kg/day IV q8h (BII) OR daptomycin: 1−<2 y, 10 mg/kg IV qd; 2−6 y, 9 mg/kg IV qd; 7−11 y, 7 mg/kg qd; 12−17 y, 5 mg/kg qd (BI) For oral therapy for MSSA: cephalexin (AII) OR amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (BII); for CA-MRSA: clindamycin (BII), TMP/SMX (AII), or linezolid (BII)	For periorbital or buccal cellulitis, also consider Streptococcus pneumoniae or Haemophilus influenzae type b in unimmunized infants. Periorbital swelling that looks like cellulitis may occur with severe sinusitis in older children. Total IV + PO therapy for 7–10 days. Because nonsuppurative cellulitis is most often caused by group A streptococcus, cephalexin alone is usually effective. In adults, a prospective, randomized study of non-purulent cellulitis did not show that the addition of TMP/SMX improved outcomes over cephalexin alone. ²⁸
Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day (Al) IV, IM q24h, for 2–7 days parenteral therapy before switch to oral (BII)	Rule out meningitis (larger dosages may then be needed). For penicillin allergy, levofloxacin IV/PO covers pathogens, but no clinical data available. Oral therapy: amoxicillin if BL negative; amox/clav or oral second- or third-generation cephalosporin if BL positive.
Penicillin G 100,000–200,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h (BII) initially, then penicillin V 100 mg/kg/ day PO div qid (BIII) OR amoxicillin 50 mg/kg/day PO div tid (BIII) for 10 days	Clindamycin is also effective for most strains of group A streptococcus. Few well-designed prospective studies exist to provide evidence for recommendations. ³¹
	OR amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (CII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div bid; for 5–7 days (CI) IV empiric therapy for non-facial cellulitis Standard: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo—<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo—<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BI) OR vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV q8h (BII) OR daptomycin: 1—<2 y, 10 mg/kg IV qd; 2–6 y, 9 mg/kg IV qd; 7–11 y, 7 mg/kg qd; 12–17 y, 5 mg/kg qd (BI) For oral therapy for MSSA: cephalexin (AII) OR amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (BII); for CA-MRSA: clindamycin (BII), TMP/SMX (AII), or linezolid (BII) Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day (AI) IV, IM q24h, for 2–7 days parenteral therapy before switch to oral (BII) Penicillin G 100,000–200,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h (BII) initially, then penicillin V 100 mg/kg/day PO div qid (BIII) OR amoxicillin 50 mg/kg/day

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Gas gangrene (See Necrotizing fa	sciitis later in this table.)	
Impetigo (<i>S aureus</i> , including CA-MRSA; occasionally group A streptococcus) ^{3-7,32}	Mupirocin OR retapamulin topically (BII) to lesions tid; OR for more extensive lesions, oral therapy Standard: cephalexin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (AII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day (CII) PO div tid OR TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div bid (AI); for 5–7 days	A meta-analysis suggests that topical therapy is as effective as oral therapy, but many studies did not specify outcomes based on pathogen susceptibilities. ³²
Ludwig angina ³³ (mixed oral aerobes/anaerobes)	Penicillin G 200,000–250,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h AND clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (CIII)	Alternatives: ceftriaxone/clindamycin; meropenem, imipenem or pip/tazo if gram-negative aerobic bacilli also suspected (CIII); high risk of respiratory tract obstruction from inflammatory edema
Lymphadenitis (See Adenitis, acu	ite bacterial, earlier in this table.)	
Lymphangitis (usually group A streptococcus, rarely S <i>aureus</i>) ^{3,4,7}	Penicillin G 200,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h (BII) initially, then penicillin V 100 mg/kg/day PO div qid OR amoxicillin 50 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 10 days	Cefazolin IV (for group A strep or MSSA infection) or clindamycin IV (for group A strep, most MSSA and MRSA) For mild disease, penicillin V 50 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 10 days
Myositis, suppurative ³⁴ (Saureus, including CA-MRSA; synonyms: tropical myositis, pyomyositis, muscle abscess)	Standard: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (CII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo−<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BI) OR vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV q8h (CIII) OR daptomycin: 1−<2 y, 10 mg/kg IV qd; 2−6 y, 9 mg/kg IV qd; 7−11 y, 7 mg/kg qd; 12−17 y, 5 mg/kg qd (BIII)	Surgical debridement is usually necessary. For disseminated MRSA infection, may require aggressive, emergent debridement; use clindamycin to help decrease toxin production (BIII); consider IVIG to bind bacterial toxins for life-threatening disease (CIII); abscesses may develop with CA-MRSA while on therapy. With infection caused by MRSA, highly associated with Panton-Valentine leukocidin. ³⁵

Necrotizing fasciitis (Pathogens vary depending on the age of the child and location of infection. Single pathogen: group A streptococcus; Clostridia spp, S aureus [including CA-MRSA], Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Vibrio spp, Aeromonas spp. Multiple pathogen, mixed aerobic/anaerobic synergistic fasciitis: any organism[s]: above, plus gram-negative bacilli, plus Bacteroides spp, and other anaerobes.)3.36-38	Empiric therapy: ceftazidime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h, or cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII); OR meropenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; OR pip/ tazo 400 mg/kg/day pip component IV div q6h (AIII). ADD vancomycin OR ceftaroline for suspected CA-MRSA, pending culture results (AIII). Mixed aerobic/anaerobic/gram-negative: meropenem or pip/tazo AND clindamycin (AIII).	Aggressive emergent wound debridement (AII). ADD clindamycin to inhibit synthesis of toxins during the first few days of therapy (AIII). If CA-MRSA identified and susceptible to clindamycin, additional vancomycin is not required. Consider IVIG to bind bacterial toxins for lifethreatening disease (BIII). Value of hyperbaric oxygen is not established (CIII). 39,40 Focus definitive antimicrobial therapy based on culture results. For documented group A strep infection: penicillin G 200,000–250,000 U/kg/day div q6h AND clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day div q8h (AIII).
Pyoderma, cutaneous abscesses (<i>S aureus,</i> including CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus) ^{4,6,7,26,27,41}	Standard: cephalexin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (BII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day PO div tid (BII) OR TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div bid (AI)	I&D when indicated; IV for serious infections. With decreasing MRSA infection, approaches to prevention of recurrent MRSA infection include the use of baths with chlorhexidine soap daily or qod (BII) OR the use of bleach baths twice weekly (½ cup of bleach per full bathtub) (BII). Decolonization with nasal mupirocin in a specific child may also be helpful; decolonization of the entire family may be important in certain situations. ⁴²
Rat-bite fever (Streptobacillus moniliformis, Spirillum minus) ^{43,44}	Penicillin G 100,000–200,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h (BII) for 7–10 days; for endocarditis, ADD gentamicin for 4–6 wk (CIII). For mild disease, oral therapy with amox/clav (CIII).	Organisms are normal oral flora for rodents. One does not require a bite to get infected. High rate of associated endocarditis. With this uncommon infection, no prospective comparative outcomes data exist. Alternatives: doxycycline; second- and third-generation cephalosporins (CIII).

A. SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (<i>S aureus</i> [MSSA, occasionally CA-MRSA]) ^{45,46}	Standard: oxacillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (CII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (CIII) OR ceftaroline OR daptomycin	Burow or Zephiran compresses for oozing skin and intertriginous areas. Corticosteroids are contraindicated. Surgical debridement should be discouraged.

B. SKELETAL INFECTIONS

Clinical Diagnosis Therapy (evidence grade) Comments

NOTE: CA-MRSA infections (see Chapter 12) are decreasing in most areas of the world. However, even during the era of widespread MRSA infection, skeletal infections caused by MRSA were less common than skin infections. Recommendations are given for CA-MRSA and MSSA. Antibiotic recommendations for empiric therapy should include CA-MRSA when suspected or documented, while treatment of MSSA with beta-lactam antibiotics is preferred over clindamycin. During the past few years, clindamycin resistance in both MSSA and MRSA has remained stable at 10%–20%, with higher resistance reported by laboratories that report clindamycin-susceptible but D-test-positive strains (methylase-inducible) as resistant. Please check your local susceptibility data for *Staphylococcus aureus* before using clindamycin for empiric therapy. For MSSA skeletal infections, oxacillin/nafcillin and cefazolin are considered equivalent.

The first PIDS-IDSA guidelines for bacterial osteomyelitis were published in the *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society,* September 2021.⁴⁷ PIDS-IDSA acute bacterial arthritis guidelines have been completed and undergoing review as of July 2022.

– Infants (Kingella kingae, now
recognized as the most
common pathogen; S aureus,
including CA-MRSA; group A

- Newborns

 Children (S aureus, including CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus; K kingae)

streptococcus)

 Unimmunized or immunocompromised children (pneumococcus, Haemophilus influenzae type b)
 For Lyme disease and brucellosis,

see Table 1L.

See Chapter 2.

Empiric therapy: cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (in locations where MRSA causes <10% of infections) ADD clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (to cover CA-MRSA unless clindamycin resistance locally is >10%, then use vancomycin). Ceftaroline can be used for MSSA. MRSA. and *Kingella*.

See Comments for discussion of dexamethasone adjunctive therapy.

For documented CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AI) OR ceftaroline: 2 mo-<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BI) OR vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV q8h (BI).

For MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (Al).

For Kingella, BL-negative: cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ampicillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h; OR, for BL-positive, ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h (AII)

For pen-S pneumococci or group A streptococcus: penicillin G 200,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h (BII). For pen-R pneumococci or *Haemophilus*: ceftriaxone

50–75 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h (BII). Total therapy (IV + PO) for 14–21 days (AII). Dexamethasone adjunctive therapy (0.15 mg/kg/dose q6h for 4 days in one study) demonstrated significant benefit in decreasing symptoms and earlier hospital discharge (but with some "rebound" symptoms). 55.56 **NOTE:** Children with rheumatologic, postinfectious, fungal/

mycobacterial infections or malignancy are also

likely to improve with steroid therapy.

Oral step-down therapy options:

For CA-MRSA: clindamycin OR linezolid. Little data published on TMP/SMX for invasive MRSA infection

For MSSA: cephalexin OR dicloxacillin caps for older children.

For *Kingella*: most penicillins or cephalosporins (but not clindamycin or linezolid).

B. SKELETAL INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Gonococcal arthritis or tenosynovitis ^{56–58}	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg IV, IM q24h (BII) for 7 days AND azithromycin 20 mg/kg PO as a single dose, OR therapy with ceftriaxone alone	Recent data from adult studies, primarily of MSM, suggest increasing azithromycin resistance, leading to recommendations to drop azithromycin from treatment for adults, with an increase in the dose of ceftriaxone. ⁵⁶ However, the rate of azithromycin resistance in children is likely to still be low; therefore, we are continuing to recommend combination therapy based on the rationale in the 2015 CDC STI guidelines. ⁵⁶ Cefixime 8 mg/kg/day PO as a single daily dose may not be effective due to increasing resistance. Ceftriaxone IV, IM is preferred over cefixime PO.
– Other bacteria	See Chapter 3 for preferred antibiotics.	
Osteomyelitis ^{47–54,59,60–63}	Step down to appropriate high-dose oral therapy when	clinically improved (see Chapter 14).47,49,51,53,62
– Newborns	See Chapter 2.	
 Infants and children, acute infection (usually S aureus, including CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus; K kingae⁴⁷) 	Empiric therapy: cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (in locations where MRSA causes <10% of bone infections), OR clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (to cover CA-MRSA unless clindamycin resistance is locally >10%; then use ceftaroline or vancomycin).	In children with open fractures secondary to trauma, add ceftazidime or cefepime for extended aerobic gram-negative bacilli activity. Kingella is resistant to clindamycin, vancomycin, and linezolid. The proportion of MRSA in pediatric osteomyelitis.

Empiric therapy: cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (II locations where MRSA causes <10% of bone infections), OR clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (to cover CA-MRSA unless clindamycin resistance is locally >10%; then use ceftaroline or vancomycin). For CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo−<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BI), OR vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV q8h (BII).

For MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h

OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div g8h (AII).

The proportion of MRSA in pediatric osteomyelitis is decreasing.⁶⁴

For MSSA (BI) and *Kingella* (BIII), step-down oral therapy with cephalexin 100 mg/kg/day PO div tid. *Kingella* is usually susceptible to amoxicillin.

Oral step-down therapy options for CA-MRSA include clindamycin and linezolid⁶⁵; additional data would be helpful to support the use of TMP/ SMX.⁶¹

	For Kingella, BL-negative: cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR ampicillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h; OR, for BL-positive, ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h (AII). Total therapy (IV + PO) usually 3–4 wk for uncomplicated MSSA, but may need >4–6 wk for CA-MRSA (BII). Follow closely for clinical response to empiric therapy.	For prosthetic devices, biofilms may impair microbial eradication, requiring the addition of rifampin or other agents. ⁶³ No prospective, controlled data on the use of antibiotic-containing beads/cement placed at surgery in the site of infection. ⁴⁷
– Acute, other organisms	See Chapter 3 for preferred antibiotics.	
 Chronic osteomyelitis (may be a complication of poorly treated acute staph osteomyelitis or the result of trauma-associated infection with multiple potential pathogens), not to be confused with chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis/chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis, which are autoinflammatory diseases 	For MSSA: cephalexin 100 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR dicloxacillin caps 75–100 mg/kg/day PO div qid for ≥3–6 mo (CIII) For CA-MRSA: clindamycin, linezolid, or TMP/SMX (CIII)	Surgery to debride sequestrum is usually required for cure. For prosthetic joint infection caused by staphylococci, add rifampin (CIII).63 Osteomyelitis associated with foreign material (spinal rods, prostheses, implanted catheters) may be difficult to cure without removal of the material, but long-term suppression may be undertaken if risks of surgery are high, until some stabilization of the healing infected bone occurs. Watch for beta-lactam—associated neutropenia with high-dose, long-term therapy and for linezolid-associated neutropenia/ thrombocytopenia with long-term (>2 wk) therapy.65
Osteomyelitis of the foot ⁶⁶ (secondary to penetrating injury to the plantar surface; <i>S aureus</i> , including CA-MRSA, with other organisms colonizing foreign bodies) Osteochondritis after a puncture wound through a shoe; <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>)	Cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII); ADD vancomycin (enhanced Gram-positive coverage) OR gentamicin (enhanced Gram-negative coverage), pending culture results.	Surgical debridement with cultures to focus antibiotic therapy. Treatment course is based on pathogen and extent of infection and debridement.

C. EYE INFECTIONS		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Cellulitis, orbital ⁶⁷⁻⁷⁰ (cellulitis of the contents of the orbit; may be associated with orbital abscess; usually secondary to sinus infection; caused by respiratory tract flora and Staphylococcus aureus, including CA-MRSA)	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h AND clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (for <i>S aureus</i> , including CA-MRSA) or ceftaroline single-drug therapy: 2 mo-<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BIII). If MSSA isolated, use oxacillin/nafcillin IV OR cefazolin IV.	Surgical drainage of significant orbital or subperiosteal abscess present by CT scan or MRI. Try medical therapy alone for small abscess (BIII), ^{71,72} Ampicillin/sulbactam for respiratory flora/ anaerobic coverage. ⁷² Treatment course for 10–14 days after surgical drainage, up to 21 days. CT scan or MRI can confirm cure (BIII).
Cellulitis, periorbital ^{73,74} (preseptal cellulitis)		Periorbital tissues are TENDER with cellulitis. Periorbital edema with sinusitis can look identical but is NOT tender. A multidisciplinary approach with an otolaryngological, ophthalmologic, and pediatric focus is helpful. ⁷³
Cellulitis associated with entry site lesion on skin (S aureus, including CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus) in the fully immunized child	Standard: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h or ceftaroline: 2 mo−<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BII)	Oral antistaphylococcal antibiotic (eg, cephalexin or clindamycin) for empiric therapy for less severe infection; treatment course for 7–10 days
- True cellulitis with no associated entry site (in febrile, unimmunized infants): pneumococcal or <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h OR cefuroxime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AII)	Treatment course for 7–10 days; rule out meningitis if bacteremic with <i>H influenzae</i> . Alternative agents for BL-positive strains of <i>H influenzae</i> : other second-, third-, fourth-, or fifthgeneration cephalosporins or amox/clav.

 Periorbital edema, not true cellulitis; non-tender erythematous swelling. Usually associated with sinusitis; sinus pathogens may rarely erode anteriorly, causing cellulitis. 	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h OR cefuroxime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII). For suspected <i>S aureus</i> , including CA-MRSA, can use ceftaroline instead of ceftriaxone. For chronic sinusitis, ADD clindamycin (covers anaerobes) to either ceftriaxone or ceftaroline (AIII).	For oral convalescent antibiotic therapy, see Sinusitis, acute, in Table 1D; total treatment course of 14–21 days or 7 days after resolution of symptoms.
Conjunctivitis, acute (Most conjunctivitis is caused by a virus and does not require antibiotic treatment; purulent conjunctivitis is primarily caused by <i>Haemophilus</i> and pneumococcus.) ^{75,76}	Polymyxin/trimethoprim ophth soln OR polymyxin/ bacitracin ophth ointment OR ciprofloxacin ophth soln (BII), for 7–10 days. For neonatal infection, see Chapter 2. Steroid-containing therapy only if HSV ruled out.	Other topical antibiotics (gentamicin, tobramycin, erythromycin, besifloxacin, moxifloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, levofloxacin) may offer advantages for particular pathogens (CII). High rates of resistance to sulfacetamide.
Conjunctivitis, herpetic ^{77–79} (may be associated with keratitis) For neonatal, see Chapter 2.	1% trifluridine or 0.15% ganciclovir ophth gel (All) AND acyclovir PO (80 mg/kg/day div qid; max daily dose: 3,200 mg/day) has been effective in limited studies (Bll). Oral valacyclovir (60 mg/kg/day div tid) has superior pharmacokinetics to oral acyclovir and can be considered for systemic treatment, as can parenteral (IV) acyclovir if extent of disease is severe (CIII).	Consultation with ophthalmologist recommended for assessment and management (eg, concomitant use of topical steroids in certain situations). Recurrences common; corneal scars may form. Long-term suppression (≥1 y) of recurrent infection with oral acyclovir 80 mg/kg/day in 3 div doses (max dose 800 mg); decisions to continue suppressive therapy should be revisited annually. The frequency of dosing may need to be increased to qid, or the drug may need to be changed to valacyclovir, if breakthrough ocular infection occurs. Potential risks must balance potential benefits to vision (BIII).
Dacryocystitis ⁵⁰ (5 aureus most often, and other skin flora)	No antibiotic usually needed; oral antibiotic therapy for more symptomatic infection, based on Gram stain and culture of pus; topical therapy as for conjunctivitis may be helpful.	Warm compresses; may require surgical probing of nasolacrimal duct.

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Endophthalmitis ^{81,82}		
required (vancomycin/ceftazidim (except for fungal infection); requ	v. Subconjunctival/sub-tenon antibiotics are likely to be e or clindamycin/gentamicin); steroids commonly used uires anterior chamber or vitreous tap for microbiological utics to be used in addition to ocular injections.	Refer to ophthalmologist; vitrectomy may be necessary for advanced endophthalmitis. No prospective, controlled studies.
 Empiric therapy following open globe injury 	Vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AIII)	
– Staphylococcal	Vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h pending susceptibility testing; oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/ day IV div q6h if susceptible (AIII)	Consider ceftaroline for MRSA treatment, as it may penetrate the vitreous better than vancomycin.
– Pneumococcal, meningococcal, Haemophilus	Ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h; penicillin G 250,000 U/kg/day IV div q4h if susceptible (AllI)	Treatment course for 10–14 days
– Gonococcal	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg q24h IV, IM AND azithromycin (AlII)	Treatment course ≥7 days
– Pseudomonas	Cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h for 10–14 days (AllI)	Cefepime is preferred over ceftazidime for Pseudomonas based on decreased risk of development of resistance on therapy; meropenem IV and imipenem IV are alternatives (no clinical data). Very poor outcomes. Oral convalescent therapy with fluoroquinolones in the adherent child.

– Candida ⁸³	Fluconazole (25 mg/kg loading dose, then 12 mg/kg/day IV), OR voriconazole (9 mg/kg loading dose, then 8 mg/kg/day IV); for resistant strains, L-AmB (5 mg/kg/day IV). For chorioretinitis, systemic antifungals PLUS intravitreal amphotericin 5–10 mcg/0.1-mL sterile water OR voriconazole 100 mcg/0.1-mL sterile water or physiologic (normal) saline soln (AlII). Duration of therapy is at least 4–6 wk (AlII).	Echinocandins given IV may not be able to achieve adequate antifungal activity in the eye.
Hordeolum (sty) or chalazion	None (topical antibiotic unnecessary)	Warm compresses; I&D when necessary
Retinitis		
– CMV ^{84,85} For congenital, see Chapter 2. Predominantly in immunocompromised and transplant patients. For HIV-infected children, see https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/ guidelines/pediatric- opportunistic-infection/ cytomegalovirus?view=full (accessed September 21, 2022).	See Chapter 7. Ganciclovir 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h for 2 wk (BIII); if needed, continue at 5 mg/kg/day q24h to complete 6 wk total (BIII).	Consultation with an ophthalmologist is recommended for assessment and management. Neutropenia risk increases with duration of therapy. Foscarnet IV and cidofovir IV are alternatives but demonstrate significant toxicities. Letermovir has been approved for prophylaxis of CMV in adult stem cell transplant patients but has not been studied as treatment of CMV retinitis. Oral valganciclovir has not been evaluated in HIV-infected children with CMV retinitis but is an option primarily for older children who weigh enough to receive the adult dose of valganciclovir (CIII). Intravitreal ganciclovir and combination therapy for non-responding, immunocompromised hosts; however, intravitreal injections may not be practical for most children.

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Bullous myringitis (See Otitis media, acute, later in this table.)	Believed to be a clinical manifestation of acute bacterial otitis media	
Mastoiditis, acute (pneumococcus [less since introduction of conjugate pneumococcal vaccines], Staphylococcus aureus, including CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus; Pseudomonas in adolescents, Haemophilus rare) ⁸⁶⁻⁸⁸	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h AND clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII) For adolescents: cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII)	Consider CNS extension (meningitis); surgery as needed for mastoid and middle ear drainage. Step down to appropriate oral therapy after clinical improvement, guided by culture results. Duration of therapy not well-defined; look for evidence of mastoid osteomyelitis.
Mastoiditis, chronic (See also Otitis, chronic suppurative, below.) (anaerobes, <i>Pseudomonas, S aureus</i> [including CA-MRSA])	Antibiotics only for acute superinfections (according to culture of drainage); for Pseudomonas: cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h Alternatives to enhance anaerobic coverage: meropenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h, OR pip/ tazo 240 mg/kg/day IV div q4–6h (BIII)	Daily cleansing of ear important; if no response to antibiotics, surgery. Be alert for CA-MRSA.
Otitis, chronic suppurative (Pseudomonas aeruginosa; S aureus, including CA-MRSA; and other respiratory tract/skin flora) ⁸⁹	Topical antibiotics: fluoroquinolone (ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin, besifloxacin) with or without steroid (BIII) Cleaning of canal, view of tympanic membrane, for patency; cultures important	Presumed middle ear drainage through open tympanic membrane. Avoid aminoglycoside-containing therapy given risk of ototoxicity. ⁹⁰ Other topical fluoroquinolones with/without steroids available.
Otitis externa		
– Bacterial, malignant otitis externa (<i>P aeruginosa</i>) ^{91,92}	Cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AllI)	Other antipseudomonal antibiotics should also be effective: ceftazidime IV AND tobramycin IV, OR meropenem IV or imipenem IV or pip/tazo IV. For more mild infection, ciprofloxacin PO.

- Bacterial, acute otitis externa (P aeruginosa; S aureus, including CA-MRSA) ^{91,92} Also called "swimmer's ear"	Topical antibiotics: fluoroquinolone (ciprofloxacin or ofloxacin) with steroid, OR neomycin/ polymyxin B/hydrocortisone (BII) Irrigating and cleaning canal of detritus important	Wick moistened with Burow (aluminum acetate topical) soln, used for marked swelling of canal; to prevent swimmer's ear, 2% acetic acid to canal after water exposure will restore acid pH.
Bacterial furuncle of canal (S aureus, including CA-MRSA)	Standard: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII) CA-MRSA: clindamycin, ceftaroline, or vancomycin (BIII)	I&D antibiotics for cellulitis. Oral therapy for mild disease, convalescent therapy. For MSSA: cephalexin. For CA-MRSA: clindamycin, TMP/SMX, OR linezolid (BIII).
– Candida	Fluconazole 6–12 mg/kg/day PO qd for 5–7 days (CIII)	May occur following antibiotic therapy for bacterial external otitis; debride canal.

Otitis media, acute

NOTE: The incidence of AOM and subsequent complications has decreased substantially in the era of conjugate pneumococcal vaccines. ⁹³ With a decrease in disease caused by pen-R pneumococci requiring alternatives to first-line therapy, very few new antibiotics have entered clinical trials within the past few years. Although the risk of antibiotic-resistant pneumococcal otitis has decreased, ⁹⁴ the percentage of *Haemophilus* responsible for AOM has likely increased; therefore, some experts recommend use of amox/clav over amoxicillin as first-line therapy for well-documented AOM. ⁹⁵ The most current AAP guidelines ⁹⁶ and meta-analyses ^{97,98} suggest that the greatest benefit with therapy occurs in children with bilateral AOM who are <2 y; for other children, close observation is also an option. AAP guidelines provide an option for non-severe cases, particularly disease in older children, to provide a prescription to parents but have them fill the prescription only if the child's condition deteriorates. ⁹⁶ European guidelines are similar, although somewhat more conservative. ⁹⁹ Although prophylaxis is only rarely indicated, amoxicillin or other antibiotics can be given at same milligram per kilogram dose as for treatment but less frequently, qd or bid to prevent infections (if the benefits outweigh the risks of development of resistant organisms for that child). ⁹⁶

D. EAR AND SINUS INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Newborns	See Chapter 2.	
– Infants and children (pneumococcus, Haemophilus influenzae non–type b, Moraxella most common)94,95,100	Amox/clav (90 mg/kg/day amox component PO div bid). Amoxicillin is still a reasonable choice for empiric therapy, but failures will most likely be caused by BL-producing Haemophilus (or Moraxella). a. For Haemophilus strains that are BL positive: amox/clav, cefdinir, cefpodoxime, cefuroxime, ceftriaxone IM, levofloxacin. b. For pen-R pneumococci (much less common in the PCV13 era): high-dosage amoxicillin achieves greater middle ear activity than oral cephalosporins. Options include ceftriaxone IM 50 mg/kg/day q24h for 1−3 doses; OR levofloxacin 20 mg/kg/day PO div bid for children ≤5 y and 10 mg/kg PO qd for children >5 y; OR a macrolide-class antibiotic: azithromycin PO at 1 of 3 dosages: (1) 10 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 5 mg/kg qd on days 2−5; (2) 10 mg/kg qd for 3 days; or (3) 30 mg/kg once. Caution: Up to 40% of pneumococci are macrolide resistant.	See Chapter 18 for dosages. Current data suggest that post-PCV13, <i>H influenzae</i> is now the most common pathogen, shifting the recommendation for empiric therapy from amoxicillin to amox/clav. ^{95,96,100} Published data document new but uncommon emergence of penicillin resistance in pneumococci isolated in the post-PCV13 era. ^{101,102} We have substantial data on the safety and tolerability of high-dosage amoxicillin (90 mg/kg/day div bid) producing high serum and middle ear fluid concentrations. Because COVID-19–era isolation is associated with a decrease in pneumococcal infections overall, data on pneumococcal resistance will be important to review as post-pandemic upper respiratory tract infections increase. It is likely that we will be able to return to standard-dosage amoxicillin (45 mg/kg/day) for AOM. Tympanocentesis should be performed in children whose second-line therapy fails.

Sinusitis, acute (*H influenzae* nontype b, pneumococcus, group A streptococcus, *Moraxella*) 95,103-106

Same antibiotic therapy as for AOM, as pathogens are similar: either amox/clav (90 mg/kg/day amox component PO div bid) or amoxicillin alone (90 mg/kg/day PO div bid).95

Therapy of 14 days may be necessary while mucosal swelling resolves and ventilation is restored.

If high-quality evidence for decreased penicillin resistance in the PCV13 era becomes available in the future, the dose of amoxicillin required for treatment may decrease.¹⁰³

IDSA sinusitis guidelines recommend amox/clav as first-line therapy, 106 while AAP guidelines recommend amoxicillin. 104 While both represent reasonable and effective therapy, amox/clav provides activity against BL-positive strains of *H influenzae*, which are more likely to be prevalent in both sinusitis and otitis in the PCV13 era. 95 There is no controlled evidence to determine whether the use of antihistamines, decongestants, or nasal irrigation is efficacious in children with acute sinusitis. 105

E. OROPHARYNGEAL INFECTIONS		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Dental abscess (mixed aerobic/anaerobic oral flora) ^{107,108}	Clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day PO, IV, IM div q6–8h OR penicillin G 100–200,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h and metronidazole 30–40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AIII)	Amox/clav PO, clindamycin PO are oral options. Metronidazole has excellent anaerobic activity but no aerobic activity. Penicillin failures reported. Other IV options include ceftriaxone and metronidazole, OR meropenem. Tooth extraction usually necessary. Erosion of abscess may occur into facial, sinusitis, deep head, and neck compartments. High-quality prospectively collected data on the value of antibiotics have not been published, particularly regarding the need for antibiotics after dental extraction.
Diphtheria pharyngitis ¹⁰⁹	Erythromycin 40–50 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 14 days OR penicillin G 150,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h; PLUS DAT (AIII)	DAT, a horse antiserum, is investigational and available only from the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770/488-7100; www.cdc.gov/diphtheria/dat.html (reviewed September 9, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022).
Epiglottitis (supraglottitis; <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b in an <i>unimmunized</i> child; rarely pneumococcus, <i>Staphylococcus</i> <i>aureus</i>) ^{110,111}	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h for 7–10 days	Emergency: provide airway. For suspected <i>S aureus</i> infection (causes only 5% of epiglottitis), consider adding clindamycin to ceftriaxone or using ceftaroline single-drug therapy.

Gingivostomatitis, herpetic ¹¹²⁻¹¹⁴	Acyclovir 80 mg/kg/day PO div qid (max dose 800 mg) for 7 days (for severe disease, use IV therapy at 30 mg/kg/day div q8h) (BIII); OR for infants ≥3 mo, valacyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose PO bid (max dose 1,000 mg; instructions for preparing liquid formulation with 28-day shelf life included in package insert) (CIII). ¹¹⁴	Early treatment is likely to be the most effective. Start treatment as soon as oral intake is compromised. Valacyclovir is the prodrug of acyclovir that provides improved oral bioavailability, compared with oral acyclovir. Extended duration of therapy may be needed for immunocompromised children. The oral acyclovir dose (80 mg/kg/day div into 4 equal doses) provided is safe and effective for varicella, but 75 mg/kg/day div into 5 equal doses has been studied for HSV. ¹¹³ Max daily acyclovir dose should not exceed 3,200 mg.
Lemierre syndrome (Fusobacterium necrophorum primarily, new reports with MRSA) ^{115–119} (pharyngitis with internal jugular vein septic thrombosis, postanginal sepsis, necrobacillosis)	Empiric: meropenem 60 mg/kg/day div q8h (or 120 mg/kg/day div q8h for CNS metastatic foci) (Alll) OR ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day q24h AND metronidazole 40 mg/kg/day div q8h or clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day div q6h (Blll). ADD empiric vancomycin if MRSA suspected if clindamycin is not in the treatment regimen.	Anecdotal reports suggest that metronidazole may be effective for apparent failures with other agents. Often requires anticoagulation. Metastatic and recurrent abscesses often develop while on active, appropriate therapy, requiring multiple debridements and prolonged antibiotic therapy. Treat until CRP and ESR are normal (AlII).
Peritonsillar cellulitis or abscess (group A streptococcus with mixed oral flora, including anaerobes, CA-MRSA) ¹²⁰ See Retropharyngeal; parapharyngeal; lateral pharyngeal cellulitis or abscess later in this table.	Clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day PO, IV, IM div q8h; for preschool infants with consideration of enteric bacilli, ADD ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV q24h (BIII).	Consider I&D for larger abscess (not well-defined). Alternatives: meropenem or imipenem or pip/tazo. Amox/clav for convalescent oral therapy (BIII). No controlled, prospective data on benefits/risks of steroids. 121

E. OROPHARYNGEAL INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Pharyngitis (group A streptococcus primarily) ^{7,122,123}	Amoxicillin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO, qd, bid, or tid for 10 days OR penicillin V 50–75 mg/kg/day PO, qid, bid, or tid, OR benzathine penicillin 600,000 U IM for children <27 kg, 1.2 million U IM if >27 kg, as a single dose (All) For penicillin-allergic children: erythromycin (estolate) at 20–40 mg/kg/day PO div bid to qid; OR 40 mg/kg/day PO div bid to qid for 10 days; OR azithromycin 12 mg/kg qd for 5 days ^a (All); OR clindamycin 30 mg/kg/day PO div tid ^a This is the dose investigated and FDA approved for children since 1994, and it is higher than the standard dose for other respiratory tract infections.	Although penicillin V is the most narrow-spectrum treatment, amoxicillin displays better Gl absorption than oral penicillin V; the suspension is better tolerated. These advantages should be balanced by the unnecessary increased spectrum of activity. Once-daily amoxicillin dosage: for children 50 mg/kg (max 1,000–1,200 mg). ⁷ A 5-day treatment course is FDA approved for azithromycin at 12 mg/kg/day for 5 days, and some oral cephalosporins have been approved (cefdinir, cefpodoxime), with rapid clinical response to treatment that can also be seen with other antibiotics; a 10-day course is preferred for the prevention of ARF, particularly areas where ARF is prevalent, as no data exist on efficacy of 5 days of therapy for prevention of ARF. ^{7,124,125}
Retropharyngeal; parapharyngeal; lateral pharyngeal cellulitis or abscess (mixed aerobic/ anaerobic flora, now including CA-MRSA) ^{120,126,127}	Clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV q24h	Consider I&D possible airway compromise, mediastinitis. Alternatives: meropenem or imipenem (BIII); pip/tazo. Can step down to less broad-spectrum coverage based on cultures. Amox/clav for convalescent oral therapy (but no activity for MRSA) (BIII).
Tracheitis, bacterial (S aureus, including CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus; pneumococcus; H influenzae type b, rarely Pseudomonas) ¹²⁸	Clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h or vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h OR ceftaroline single-drug therapy: 2 mo-<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg); >33 kg, either 400 mg/dose IV q8h or 600 mg/dose IV q12h (BIII)	For susceptible <i>S aureus</i> , oxacillin/nafcillin or cefazolin May represent bacterial superinfection of viral laryngotracheobronchitis, including influenza

F. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Abscess, lung		
 Primary (a complication of severe, necrotizing community- acquired pneumonia caused by pneumococcus; Staphylococcus aureus, particularly CA-MRSA; group A streptococcus, rarely Mycoplasma pneumoniae)^{129,130} 	Empiric therapy with ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h AND clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day div q8h or vancomycin 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h for ≥14–21 days (AIII) OR (for MRSA) ceftaroline single-drug therapy: 2–<6 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h); ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h) (max single dose 600 mg) (BII)	For severe CA-MRSA infections, see Chapter 12. For presumed <i>Mycoplasma</i> , add a fluoroquinolone (levofloxacin) or macrolide. Bronchoscopy may be necessary if abscess fails to drain; surgical excision is rarely necessary for pneumococcus but may be important for CA-MRSA and MSSA. Focus antibiotic coverage based on culture results. For MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin or cefazolin.
 Secondary to aspiration (ie, foul smelling; polymicrobial infection with oral aerobes and anaerobes)¹³¹ 	Clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h or meropenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h for ≥10 days (AIII)	Alternatives: ceftriaxone AND metronidazole OR imipenem IV OR pip/tazo IV (BIII) Oral step-down therapy with clindamycin or amox/clav (BIII)
Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis 132	Prednisone 0.5 mg/kg qd for 1–2 wk and then taper (BII) for mild, acute stage illness AND (for more severe disease) voriconazole ¹³³ 18 mg/kg/day PO div q12h load followed by 16 mg/kg/day div q12h (AIII) OR itraconazole ¹³⁴ 10 mg/kg/day PO div q12h (BII). Voriconazole and itraconazole require trough concentration monitoring.	Not all allergic pulmonary disease is associated with true fungal infection. Larger steroid dosages to control inflammation may lead to tissue invasion by <i>Aspergillus</i> . Corticosteroids are the cornerstone of therapy for exacerbations, and itraconazole and voriconazole have a demonstrable corticosteroid-sparing effect.
Aspiration pneumonia (polymicrobial infection with oral aerobes and anaerobes) ¹³¹	Clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ADD ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h for additional <i>Haemophilus</i> activity OR, as a single agent, meropenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; for ≥10 days (BIII).	Alternatives: ceftriaxone AND metronidazole OR imipenem IV OR pip/tazo IV (BIII) Oral step-down therapy with clindamycin or amox/clav (BIII)

		Antimicrobial Therapy According to Clinical Syndromes
F. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRA	ACT INFECTIONS (continued)	
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Atypical pneumonia (See Mycoplasma pneumoniae and Legionnaires disease later in this table under Pneumonias of other established etiologies.)		
Bronchitis (bronchiolitis), acute ¹³⁵	For bronchitis/bronchiolitis in children, no antibiotic needed for most cases, as disease is usually viral	With PCR multiplex diagnosis now widely available, a nonbacterial diagnosis will allow clinicians to avoid use of antibiotics, but viral/bacterial coinfection can still occur.
Community-acquired pneumor (See Community-acquired pneumo	nia nia: empiric therapy later in this table.)	
required in the past to achieve th nutritional support of CF, it seems	e same blood concentrations as those in children s s that most antibiotics eliminated by the kidney ca	than standard dosages of beta-lactam antibiotics have been without CF, but in the current era of maximal pulmonary and in be administered at typical doses to achieve adequate blood is achieved at the deep sites of infection in the CF lung are

adequate, particularly with advanced CF disease. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation posts quidelines (www.cff.org/Care/Clinical-Care-Guidelines/ Respiratory-Clinical-Care-Guidelines/Pulmonary-Exacerbations-Clinical-Care-Guidelines; reviewed July 2021; accessed September 21, 2022). Dosages of beta-lactams should achieve their pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic goals to increase the chance of response. 136,137

- Acute exacerbation (Pseudomonas aeruginosa primarily: also Burkholderia cepacia, Stenotrophomonas maltophilia, S aureus [including CA-MRSA1, nontuberculous mycobacteria)138-143

Cefepime 150-200 mg/kg/day diy g8h or meropenem 120 mg/kg/day div g6h AND tobramycin 6-10 mg/kg/day IM, IV div g6-8h for treatment of acute exacerbation (AII): many alternatives: imipenem IV, ceftazidime IV, or ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO, IV div tid May require vancomycin 60-80 mg/kg/day IV div q8h for MRSA, OR ceftaroline 45 mg/kg/ day IV div g8h (each dose given over 2 h) (max single dose 600 mg) (BIII) Duration of therapy not well-defined: 10-14 days (BIII)139

Monitor concentrations of aminoglycosides, vancomycin. Insufficient evidence to recommend routine use of inhaled antibiotics for acute exacerbations. 144

Cultures with susceptibility will help select antibiotics, as multidrug resistance is common, but synergy testing is not well standardized. 145

Combination therapy may provide synergistic killing and delay the emergence of resistance (BIII). Attempt at early eradication of new-onset Pseudomonas may decrease progression of disease.146

Failure to respond to antibacterials should prompt evaluation for appropriate drug doses and for invasive/allergic fungal disease as well as maximization of pulmonary hygiene.

– Chronic inflammation in CF: impact of inhaled antibiotics and azithromycin to minimize long-term damage to lung	Inhaled tobramycin 300 mg bid, cycling 28 days on therapy, 28 days off therapy, is effective adjunctive therapy between exacerbations, with new data suggesting a benefit of alternating inhaled tobramycin with inhaled aztreonam (AI). 147,148 Azithromycin adjunctive chronic therapy, greatest benefit for those colonized with <i>Pseudomonas</i> (AII). 149,150	Alternative inhaled antibiotics: colistin ¹⁵¹ (BIII). Two newer powder preparations of inhaled tobramycin are available. Azithromycin does not decrease the benefit of improved pulmonary function with inhaled tobramycin in those with <i>Pseudomonas</i> airway colonization. ¹⁵²
Pertussis 153,154	Azithromycin: for those ≥6 mo, 10 mg/kg/day for day 1, then 5 mg/kg/day for days 2–5; for those <6 mo, 10 mg/kg/day for 5 days; OR clarithromycin 15 mg/kg/day div bid for 7 days; or erythromycin (estolate preferable) 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 7–10 days (AII) Alternative: TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP div bid for 14 days (BIII)	Azithromycin and clarithromycin are better tolerated than erythromycin; azithromycin is preferred in young infants to reduce pyloric stenosis risk (see Chapter 2). Provide prophylaxis to family members. Unfortunately, no adjunctive therapy has been shown to be beneficial in decreasing the cough. 155
Community-acquired pneumo with pleural fluid/empyema	nia: empiric therapy for bronchopneumonia	, lobar consolidation, or complicated pneumonia
 Mild to moderate "chest cold" – like illness (overwhelmingly viral, especially in preschool children)¹⁵⁶ 	No antibiotic therapy unless epidemiologic, clinical, or laboratory reasons to suspect bacterial coinfection, or <i>Mycoplasma</i>	Broad-spectrum antibiotics may increase risk of subsequent infection with antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

F. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS (continued)

Clinical Diagnosis

 Moderate to severe illness (pneumococcus; group A streptococcus; S aureus, including CA-MRSA; M pneumoniae^{129,157,158}; for those with aspiration and underlying comorbidities, Haemophilus influenzae, non-typeable; and for unimmunized children, H influenzae type b)

Therapy (evidence grade)

Empiric therapy
For most regions now with high PCV13 vaccine
use or low pneumococcal resistance to
penicillin: ampicillin 150–200 mg/kg/day div
a6h.

For regions with low rates of PCV13 use or high pneumococcal resistance to penicillin: ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day g24h (Al).

For suspected CA-MRSA: ceftaroline: 2–<6 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h); ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h) (max single dose 600 mg) (BII), ¹⁵⁸ OR vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day (AIII).³

For suspected *Mycoplasma*/atypical pneumonia agents, particularly in schoolaged children, ADD azithromycin 10 mg/kg IV, PO on day 1, then 5 mg/kg qd for days 2–5 of treatment (All).

- Pleural fluid/empyema (same pathogens as for

community-associated bronchopneumonia) (Based on extent of fluid and symptoms, may benefit from chest tube drainage with fibrinolysis; rarely from video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery.)^{157,139–166}

Empiric therapy: ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h AND vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII) OR ceftaroline single-drug therapy: 2–66 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h) (max single dose 600 mg) (BII)

Comments

Tracheal aspirate or BAL for Gram stain/culture for severe infection in intubated children.

For CA-MRSA: if vancomycin is being used rather than ceftaroline, check vancomycin serum concentrations and renal function, particularly at the higher dosage needed to achieve an AUC:MIC of 400.

Alternatives to azithromycin for atypical pneumonia include erythromycin IV, PO, or clarithromycin PO, or doxycycline IV, PO for children >7 y, or levofloxacin IV, PO. Benefits of combination empiric therapy with a beta-lactam

Benefits of combination empiric therapy with a beta-lacta and a macrolide conflict and may apply only to certain populations.^{159–161}

Duration of therapy is still not well-defined in prospective, controlled trials in pediatric community-acquired pneumonia. Retrospective data with diagnosis based only on clinical examination and radiograph suggested that 10 days may be unnecessary for all children (5 days may be sufficient). ¹⁶² Empiric oral outpatient therapy for less severe illness: high-dosage amoxicillin 80–100 mg/kg/day PO div tid (NOT bid, which is used for otitis) (BIII).

Initial therapy based on Gram stain of empyema fluid; typically, clinical improvement is slow, with persisting but decreasing "spiking" fever for 2–3 wk.

Concerns about the effectiveness of vancomycin monotherapy in influenza-associated MRSA pneumonia. 167 Combination therapy with agents added to vancomycin, or monotherapy with other agents like ceftaroline, may provide a better option.

syndrome of early infancy	azithromycin 10 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 5 mg/kg/day qd days 2–5 OR erythromycin 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 14 days (BII)	role of <i>Ureaplasma</i> uncertain
Pneumonia: definitive therap	y for pathogens of community-acquired pne	umonia
- Pneumococcus (may occur with non-PCV13 serotypes) ^{129,157–159}	Empiric therapy For regions with high PCV13 vaccine use or low pneumococcal resistance to penicillin: ampicillin 150–200 mg/kg/day div q6h For regions with low rates of PCV13 use or high pneumococcal resistance to penicillin: ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h (Al) Empiric oral outpatient therapy for less severe illness: high-dosage amoxicillin 80–100 mg/kg/day PO div tid (NOT bid, which is used for otitis)	Change to PO after improvement (decreased fever, no oxygen needed); treat until patient clinically asymptomatic and chest radiograph significantly improved (7–21 days) (BIII). No reported failures of ceftriaxone for pen-R pneumococcus; no need to add empiric vancomycin for this reason (CIII). Oral therapy for pneumococcus may also be successful with amox/clav, cefdinir, cefixime, cefpodoxime, or cefuroxime, particularly for fully pen-S strains. Levofloxacin is an alternative, particularly for those with severe allergy to beta-lactam antibiotics (BI), ¹⁶⁸ but, due to theoretical cartilage toxicity concerns for humans, should not be first-line therapy.
– Pneumococcal, pen-S	Penicillin G 250,000–400,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 10 days (BII) OR ampicillin 150–200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h	After improvement, change to amoxicillin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR penicillin V 50–75 mg/kg/day div qid.
– Pneumococcal, pen-R	Ceftriaxone 75 mg/kg/day q24h for 10–14 days (BIII)	Addition of vancomycin has not been required for treatment of pen-R strains. Ceftaroline is more active against pneumococcus than ceftriaxone, but with no current ceftriaxone resistance, ceftaroline is not required. For oral convalescent therapy, high-dosage amoxicillin (100–150 mg/kg/day PO div tid), clindamycin (30 mg/kg/day PO div tid), linezolid (30 mg/kg/day PO div tid), or levofloxacin PO.

If Chlamydia trachomatis suspected.

- Interstitial pneumonia

Most often respiratory viral pathogens, CMV, or chlamydial:

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
- Staphylococcus aureus (including CA-MRSA) is a rare (1%) cause of pediatric community-acquired pneumonia. 4.6,129,157,169,170	For MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h or cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (All) For suspected CA-MRSA: ceftaroline: 2—<6 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h); ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h) (max single dose 600 mg) (BII), OR vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day (AlII)³; may need addition of rifampin, clindamycin, or gentamicin (AlII) (See Chapter 12.)	Check vancomycin serum concentrations and renal function, particularly at the higher dosage designed to attain an AUC:MIC of 400, or serum trough concentrations of 15 mcg/mL for invasive CA-MRSA disease. For life-threatening disease, optimal therapy for CA-MRSA has not been studied and remains poorly defined: consider adding gentamicin and/or rifampin for combination therapy (CIII). Linezolid 30 mg/kg/day IV, PO div q8h is another option, more effective in adults than vancomycin for MRSA nosocomial pneumonia ¹⁷¹ (follow platelet and WBC counts weekly). For influenza-associated MRSA pneumonia, vancomycin monotherapy was inferior to combination therapies. 165 Do NOT use daptomycin for pneumonia. Oral convalescent therapy for MSSA: cephalexin PO; for CA-MRSA: clindamycin or linezolid PO. Total course for ≥21 days (AIII).
– Group A streptococcus	Penicillin G 250,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 10 days (BII)	Change to amoxicillin 75 mg/kg/day PO div tid or penicillin V 50–75 mg/kg/day div qid to tid after clinical improvement (BIII).

Pneumonia: immunosuppressed, neutropenic host

 Immunosuppressed, neutropenic host¹⁷²
 (P aeruginosa, other communityassociated or nosocomial gramnegative bacilli, S aureus, fungi, AFB. Pneumocystis, viral

[adenovirus, CMV, EBV,

influenza, RSV, others1)

Cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AII), OR meropenem 60 mg/kg/day div q8h (AII) (BIII), OR pip/tazo 240–300 mg/kg/day div q6h; AND if *S aureus* (including MRSA) is suspected clinically, ADD vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AIII) OR ceftaroline: 2–<6 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 600 mg) (BIII).

Biopsy/BAL for histology/cultures or serum/BAL for cell-free next-generation sequencing testing helps determine need for antifungal, antiviral, antimycobacterial treatment. Antifungal therapy usually started if no response to antibiotics in 48–72 h (AmB, voriconazole, or caspofungin/micafungin—see Chapter 5).

For septic patients, the addition of tobramycin will increase coverage for most gram-negative pathogens.

For those with mucositis, anaerobic coverage may be needed, as provided by carbapenems and pip/tazo (or with the addition of clindamycin or metronidazole to other agents).

Consider use of 2 active agents for definitive therapy for *Pseudomonas* for neutropenic hosts to assist clearing the pathogen and potentially decrease risk of resistance, but there is no evidence to support better outcomes (BIII).

Pneumonia: nosocomial (health care-associated/ventilator-associated)

Nosocomial (health careassociated/ventilatorassociated) (P aeruginosa, gram-negative enteric bacilli [Enterobacter, Klebsiella, Serratia, Escherichia coli], Acinetobacter, Stenotrophomonas, and grampositive organisms including CA-MRSA and Enterococcus)^{173,174}

Commonly used regimens
Meropenem 60 mg/kg/day div q8h, OR pip/
tazo 240–300 mg/kg/day div q6–8h, OR
cefepime 150 mg/kg/day div q8h; ±
gentamicin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day div q8h (AIII);
ADD vancomycin or ceftaroline for suspected
CA-MRSA (AIII).

Empiric therapy should be institution specific, based on your hospital's nosocomial pathogens and susceptibilities. Pathogens that cause nosocomial pneumonia often have multidrug resistance. Cultures are critical. Empiric therapy also based on child's prior colonization/infection. Do not treat colonization, though.

For MDR gram-negative bacilli, available IV therapy options include ceftazidime/avibactam (now FDA approved for children), tol/taz, meropenem/vaborbactam, cefiderocol, plazomicin. or colistin.

Aerosol delivery of antibiotics may be required for MDR pathogens, but little high-quality controlled data are available for children.¹⁷⁵

F. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Pneumonias of other establish	ed etiologies (See Chapter 3 for treatment by pa	thogen.)
– Chlamydophila pneumoniae, ¹⁷⁶ Chlamydophila psittaci, or Chlamydia trachomatis	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 5 mg/kg/day qd days 2–5 or erythromycin 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid; for 14 days	Doxycycline (patients >7 y). Levofloxacin should also be effective.
– CMV (immunocompromised host) ^{177,178} (See chapters 2 and 7 for CMV infection in newborns and children, respectively.)	See Chapter 7. Ganciclovir IV 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h for 2 wk (BIII); if needed, continue at 5 mg/kg/day q24h to complete 4–6 wk total (BIII).	Bone marrow transplant recipients with CMV pneumonia whose ganciclovir therapy alone fails may benefit from therapy with IV CMV hyperimmunoglobulin and ganciclovir given together (BII). ^{179,180} Oral valganciclovir may be used for convalescent therapy (BIII). Foscarnet for ganciclovir-resistant isolates.
– E coli	Ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h (All)	For cephalosporin-R strains (ESBL producers), use meropenem, imipenem, or ertapenem (AIII). Use highdose ampicillin if susceptible.
– Enterobacter spp	Cefepime 100 mg/kg/day div q12h or meropenem 60 mg/kg/day div q8h; OR ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h AND gentamicin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h (AIII)	Addition of aminoglycoside to third-generation cephalosporins (ceftriaxone, ceftazidime) may retard the emergence of ampC-mediated constitutive high-level resistance, but concern exists for inadequate aminoglycoside concentration in airways; not an issue for ampC-stable beta-lactams (cefepime, meropenem, imipenem, or pip/tazo).
– Francisella tularensis ¹⁸¹	Gentamicin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h for ≥10 days for more severe disease (AlII); for less severe disease, ciprofloxacin or levofloxacin (AIII)	Other alternative for oral therapy for mild disease: doxycycline PO for 14–21 days (but watch for relapse). See www.cdc.gov/tularemia/clinicians/index.html (reviewed July 5, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022).

- Fungi (See Chapter 5.) Community-associated pathogens, which vary by region (eg, *Coccidioides*, ^{182,183} *Histoplasma*) ^{184,185}

Aspergillus; mucormycosis; other mold infections in immunocompromised hosts (See Chapter 5.)

For detailed pathogen-specific recommendations, see Chapter 5.

For suspected endemic fungi or mucormycosis in an immunocompromised host, treat empirically with a lipid AmB and not voriconazole; biopsy needed to guide therapy. Posaconazole¹⁸⁶ and isavuconazole¹⁸⁷ have in vitro activity and clinical efficacy data against some *Rhizopus* spp.

For suspected invasive aspergillosis, treat with voriconazole (AI) (load 18 mg/kg/day div q12h on day 1, then continue 16 mg/kg/day div q12h).

For immunocompetent hosts, triazoles (fluconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, posaconazole, and isavuconazole) are better tolerated than AmB and equally effective for many community-associated pathogens (see Chapter 6). For dosage, see Chapter 5.

Check voriconazole trough concentrations; need to be at least >2 mcg/mL.

For Coccidioides infection refractory to fluconazole therapy, consider increasing the dose, switching to other azoles, or switching to AmB.

F. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS (conti	nued
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r. LOWER RESPIRATORT TRACT INTECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
 Influenza virus. 188,189 Recent seasonal influenza A and B strains continue to be resistant to adamantanes. 	Empiric therapy, or documented influenza A or B Oseltamivir ^{189,190} (AlI): <12 mo: Full-term infants 0–8 mo: 3 mg/kg/dose bid 9–11 mo: 3.5 mg/kg/dose bid ≥12 mo: ≤15 kg: 30 mg PO bid >15–23 kg: 45 mg PO bid >23–40 kg: 60 mg PO bid >40 kg: 75 mg PO bid Zanamivir inhaled (AlI): for those ≥7 y, 10 mg (two 5-mg inhalations) bid Peramivir (BII): 6 mo–12 y: single IV dose of 12 mg/kg, up to 600 mg max 13–17 y: single IV dose of 600 mg Baloxavir (BI): ≥5 y: <20 kg: single dose PO of 2 mg/kg 20–79 kg: single dose PO of 40 mg ≥80 kg: single dose PO of 80 mg	Check for antiviral susceptibility each season at www.cdc. gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm (reviewed by the CDC September 8, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022). For children 12–23 mo, the unit dose of oseltamivir of 30 mg/dose may provide inadequate drug exposure. 3.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid has been studied for pharmacokinetics, 190 but sample sizes were limited. Limited data for oseltamivir in preterm neonates 180: <38 wk of PMA (gestational plus chronologic age): 1.0 mg/kg/dose PO bid 38–40 wk of PMA: 1.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid The adamantanes (amantadine and rimantadine) had activity against influenza A before the late 1990s, but all circulating A strains of influenza have been resistant for many years. Influenza B is intrinsically resistant to adamantanes.
– Klebsiella pneumoniae ^{191,192}	Ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h (AIII); for ceftriaxone-resistant strains (ESBL strains), use meropenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AIII) or other carbapenem.	For K pneumoniae that contain ESBLs, other carbapenems, pip/tazo, and fluoroquinolones are other options. Data in adults suggest that outcomes with pip/tazo are inferior to those with carbapenems. 191,192 For KPC-producing strains that are resistant to meropenem, alternatives include ceftazidime/avibactam (FDA approved for adults and children), fluoroquinolones, or colistin (BIII). See Chapter 12.

– Legionnaires disease (Legionella pneumophila)	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg IV, PO q24h for 5 days (AIII)	Alternatives: clarithromycin, erythromycin, ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, doxycycline
Mycobacteria, nontuberculous (Mycobacterium avium complex most common) ¹⁹³	In a normal host with pneumonia that requires therapy, 3 drugs are now recommended: azithromycin PO (or clarithromycin PO) AND ethambutol, AND rifampin, given 3 times/wk to prevent macrolide/azalide resistance. Duration of treatment is not well-defined; consider 12 mo, or 6–12 wk if susceptible. For more extensive cavitary or advanced/ severe bronchiectatic disease, ADD amikacin or streptomycin (AlII).	Highly variable susceptibilities of different nontuberculous mycobacterial spp. Culture and susceptibility data are important for success. Check if immunocompromised: HIV or interferon-γ receptor deficiency. Consider consulting an ID physician.
 Mycobacterium tuberculosis (See Tuberculosis later in this table.) 		
– M pneumoniae ^{157,194}	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 5 mg/kg/day qd days 2–5, OR clarithromycin 15 mg/kg/day div bid for 7–14 days, OR erythromycin 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 14 days	Mycoplasma often causes self-limited infection and does not routinely require treatment (Alll). Little prospective, well-controlled data exist for treatment of documented mycoplasma pneumonia, specifically in children. 194 Doxycycline (patients > 7 y) or levofloxacin. Macrolide-resistant strains have recently developed worldwide but may respond to doxycycline or levofloxacin. 195 Studies have been difficult without better diagnostic techniques, but respiratory tract PCR testing is now available to assist in early identification of possible infections.

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Paragonimus westermani	See Chapter 9.	
– Pneumocystis jiroveci (formerly carini) 196, disease in immunosuppressed children and those with HIV	Severe disease: preferred regimen is TMP/SMX, 15–20 mg/kg/day of TMP IV div q8h for 3 wk (AI). Mild to moderate disease: may start with IV therapy, then after acute pneumonitis is resolving, TMP/SMX 20 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div qid for 21 days (AII). Use steroid adjunctive treatment for more severe disease (AII).	Alternatives for TMP/SMX intolerant, or clinical failure: pentamidine 3–4 mg IV qd, infused over 60–90 min (AII); TMP AND dapsone; OR primaquine AND clindamycin; OR atovaquone. Prophylaxis: TMP/SMX as 5 mg/kg/day of TMP PO, div in 2 doses, q12h, daily or 3 times/wk on consecutive days (AI); OR TMP/SMX 5 mg/kg/day of TMP PO as a single dose, qd, given 3 times/wk on consecutive days (AI); once-weekly regimens have also been successful ¹⁹⁷ ; OR dapsone 2 mg/kg (max 100 mg) PO qd, or 4 mg/kg (max 200 mg) once weekly; OR atovaquone: 30 mg/kg/day for infants 1–3 mo, 45 mg/kg/day for infants 4–24 mo, and 30 mg/kg/day for children >24 mo.
– P aeruginosa ^{198,199}	Cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h ± tobramycin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h (AII). Alternatives: meropenem 60 mg/kg/day div q8h, OR pip/tazo 240–300 mg/kg/day div q6–8h (AII) ± tobramycin (BIII).	Ciprofloxacin IV, or colistin IV for MDR strains of Pseudomonas ¹⁹⁹ (See Chapter 12.)
– RSV infection (bronchiolitis, pneumonia) ²⁰⁰	For immunocompromised hosts, the only FDA- approved treatment is ribavirin aerosol: 6-g vial (20 mg/mL in sterile water), by SPAG- 2, over 18–20 h daily for 3–5 days, although questions remain regarding efficacy.	Treat only for severe disease, immunocompromised, severe underlying cardiopulmonary disease, as aerosol ribavirin provides only a small benefit. Airway reactivity with inhalation precludes routine use. We have not personally used inhaled ribavirin for the past several years. Palivizumab (Synagis) is not effective for treatment of an active RSV infection but cost-effective for prevention of hospitalization in high-risk patients. RSV antivirals and more potent monoclonal antibodies are currently under investigation.

Tuberculosis

- Primary pulmonary disease^{15,16,201,202} INH 10–15 mg/kg/day (max 300 mg) PO qd for 6 mo AND rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/day (max 600 mg) PO qd for 6 mo AND PZA 30–40 mg/kg/day (max 2 g) PO qd for first 2 mo of therapy only (All). Twice-weekly treatment, particularly with DOT, is acceptable.¹⁵

If risk factors present for multidrug resistance, ADD ethambutol 20 mg/kg/day PO qd OR streptomycin 30 mg/kg/day IV, IM div q12h initially. Obtain baseline LFTs. Consider monthly LFTs for at least 3 mo or as needed for symptoms. It is common to have mildly elevated liver transaminase concentrations (2–3 times normal) that do not further increase during the entire treatment interval. Children with obesity may have mild elevation when therapy is started.

New recommendations on short-course (4-mo) daily therapy for children with non-severe TB may soon be made for the United States, following new World Health Organization guidelines (www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240046764; accessed September 21, 2022).

Contact TB specialist for therapy for drug-resistant TB. ²⁰¹ Fluoroquinolones may play a role in treating MDR strains. Bedaquiline, in a new drug class for TB therapy, is approved for adults and children >5 y with MDR TB when used in combination therapy. Delamanid is not FDA approved as of July 2022.

DOT preferred; after 2 wk of daily therapy, can change to twice-weekly dosing double dosage of INH (max 900 mg), PZA (max 2 g), and ethambutol (max 2.5 g); rifampin remains same dosage (15–20 mg/kg/day, max 600 mg) (All).

LP ± CT of head for children ≤2 y to rule out occult, concurrent CNS infection; consider testing for HIV infection (AIII).

Mycobacterium bovis infection from unpasteurized dairy products is also called "tuberculosis" but rarely causes pulmonary disease; all strains of M bovis are PZA resistant. Treat 9–12 mo with INH and rifampin.

F. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS (continued)

Clinical Diagnosis

 Latent TB infection^{15,16,203} (skin test conversion; more recently just called "TB infection"¹⁵ in contrast to "TB disease" for symptomatic TB infection)

Therapy (evidence grade)

Many options now INH/rifapentine:

For children 2–11 y: *once-weekly* DOT for *12 wk:* INH 25 mg/kg/dose (max 900 mg), AND rifapentine: 10.0–14.0 kg: 300 mg

14.1–25.0 kg: 450 mg 25.1–32.0 kg: 600 mg 32.1–49.9 kg: 750 mg

32.1–49.9 kg: 750 mg ≥50.0 kg: 900 mg (max)

For children 2–11 y: INH 25 mg/kg, rounded up to nearest 50 or 100 mg (max 900 mg), AND rifapentine (See above.)

Rifampin alone (all ages): 15–20 mg/kg/dose daily (max 600 mg) for 4 mo

INH/rifampin (all ages): INH 10–15 mg/kg/day (max 300 mg)/rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/day (max 600 mg) daily for 3 mo

INH 10–15 mg/kg/day (max 300 mg) PO daily for 6–9 mo (12 mo for immunocompromised patients) (AlII); treatment with INH at 20–30 mg/kg twice weekly for 9 mo also effective (AlII)

Comments

Obtain baseline LFTs. Consider monthly LFTs or as needed for symptoms. Stop INH/rifapentine if AST or ALT ≥5 times the ULN even in the absence of symptoms or ≥3 times the ULN in the presence of symptoms. For children <2 y: INH and rifapentine may be used, but there are less data on safety and efficacy.

For exposure to known INH-resistant but rifampinsusceptible strains, use rifampin 6 mo (AIII). Exposed child <4 y, or immunocompromised patient (high risk for dissemination)

CAPDIOVASCIII AD INFECTIONS

Prophylaxis for possible infection for 2–3 mo after last exposure with rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/dose PO qd OR INH 10–15 mg/kg PO qd; for at least 2–3 mo (AlII), with repeated skin test or interferon-γ release assay test (AlII). Also called "window prophylaxis."

Alternative regimens

INH 10–15 mg/kg PO qd AND rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/dose ad (max 600 mg) for up to 3 mo.

If PPD or interferon-γ release assay test remains negative at 2–3 mo and child appears well, consider stopping empiric therapy. PPD may not be reliable in immunocompromised patients. Not much data to assess reliability of interferon-γ release assays in very young infants or immunocompromised hosts, but not likely to be much better than the PPD skin test.

G. CARDIOVASCULAR INFECTIONS		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Bacteremia		
 Occult bacteremia/serious bacterial infection (late-onset neonatal sepsis; fever without focus), infants <1-2 mo (group B streptococcus, Escherichia coli, Listeria, pneumococcus, meningococcus)²⁰⁴⁻²⁰⁹ 	In general, hospitalization for late-onset neonatal sepsis in the ill-appearing infant, with cultures of blood, urine, and CSF; start ampicillin for group B streptococcus and Listeria at 200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h AND cefepime or ceftazidime for E coli/ enteric bacilli; use ceftriaxone for those after the first few weeks following birth (cefotaxime no longer routinely available in the United States); higher dosages if meningitis is documented. In areas with low (<20%) ampicillin resistance in E coli, consider ampicillin and gentamicin (gentamicin will not cover CNS infection caused by ampicillin-resistant E coli when treated with ampicillin and gentamicin).	Current data document the importance of ampicillin- resistant <i>E coli</i> in bacteremia and UTI in infants <90 days. ²⁰⁷⁻²⁰⁹ For a nontoxic, febrile infant with good access to medical care: cultures may be obtained of blood and urine, and we are getting much closer to eliminating CSF cultures in low-risk infants. Risk scores incorporate various combinations of history (previously healthy), no skin or soft tissue infection, clinical status, urinalysis, WBC count, and procalcitonin. Infants may be discharged home without antibiotics and close follow-up if evaluation is negative (Rochester; modified Philadelphia criteria) ²⁰⁵⁻²⁰⁹ (BI).

G. CARDIOVASCULAR INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
 Occult bacteremia/serious bacterial infection (fever without focus) at age 2–3 mo to 36 mo (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b/pneumococcus in unimmunized patients; meningococcus; pneumococcus [non-vaccine strains]; increasingly <i>Staphylococcus</i> aureus)²⁰⁷ 	Empiric therapy: if unimmunized, febrile, mild to moderate toxic: after blood culture: ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg IM (BII). If fully immunized (<i>Haemophilus</i> and <i>Pneumococcus</i>) and nontoxic, routine <i>empiric</i> outpatient therapy for fever with antibiotics is no longer recommended, but follow closely in case of non-vaccine strain pneumococcal infection, vaccine failure, or meningococcal bacteremia (BIII).	Conjugated vaccines for <i>H influenzae</i> type b and pneumococcus have virtually eliminated occult bacteremia of infancy by these pathogens. For those who are bacteremic, oral convalescent therapy is selected by susceptibility of blood isolate, following response to IM/IV treatment, with CNS and other foci ruled out by examination ± laboratory tests ± imaging. LP is not recommended for routine evaluation of fever. ²⁰⁴
 Hinfluenzae type b, non-CNS infections 	Ceftriaxone IM/IV OR, if BL negative, ampicillin IV, followed by oral convalescent therapy (All)	If BL negative: amoxicillin 75–100 mg/kg/day PO div tid (AII). If positive, consider these options (but there is no data on treatment of bacteremic infection): high-dosage cefixime, ceftibuten, cefdinir PO, or levofloxacin PO (CIII).
– Meningococcus	Ceftriaxone IM/IV or penicillin G IV, followed by oral convalescent therapy (All)	Amoxicillin 75–100 mg/kg/day PO div tid (AIII)
– Pneumococcus, non-CNS infections	Ceftriaxone IM/IV or penicillin G/ampicillin IV (if pen-S), followed by oral convalescent therapy (AII)	If pen-S or penicillin-intermediate (MIC is ≤2 or lower): amoxicillin 75–100 mg/kg/day PO div tid (AII). If pen-R (MIC is ≥4): continue ceftriaxone IM or switch to clindamycin if susceptible (CIII); linezolid or levofloxacin may also be an option (CIII).

- S aureus^{4,6,210–213} usually associated with focal infection

MSSA: nafcillin or oxacillin/nafcillin IV 150–200 mg/ kg/day div q6h \pm gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day div q8h (All).

MRSA: daptomycin IV²¹⁴ 8–12 mg/kg/day q24h (BII), OR vancomycin²¹¹ 40–60 mg/kg/day (CII) IV div q8h OR ceftaroline: 2 mo-<2 y, 24 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; \ge 2 y, 36 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (max single dose 400 mg) (BIII) \pm gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day div q8h \pm rifampin²¹² 20 mg/kg/day div q12h (AIII).

Treat for 2 wk (IV + PO) from negative blood cultures unless endocarditis/endovascular thrombus is present, which may require up to 6 wk of therapy (BIII).

For persisting bacteremia caused by MRSA, consider adding gentamicin or rifampin, or changing from vancomycin (particularly for MRSA with vancomycin MIC of >2 mcg/mL) to daptomycin or ceftaroline (daptomycin will not treat pneumonia).

For toxic shock syndrome, clindamycin should be added for the initial 48–72 h of therapy to decrease toxin production (linezolid may also act this way); IVIG may be added to bind circulating toxin (linezolid may also act this way); no controlled data exist for these measures.

Watch for the development of metastatic foci of infection, including endocarditis.

If catheter-related, remove catheter.

Endocarditis: Prospective, controlled data on therapy for endocarditis in neonates, infants, and children are quite limited, and many recommendations are extrapolated from adult studies, in which some level of evidence exists, or from other invasive bacteremia infection studies. Surgical indications: intractable heart failure; persistent infection; large mobile vegetations; peripheral embolism; and valve dehiscence, perforation, rupture, or fistula, or a large perivalvular abscess.²¹⁵⁻²¹⁹ Consider community vs nosocomial pathogens based on recent surgeries, prior antibiotic therapy, and possible entry sites for bacteremia (skin, oropharynx and respiratory tract, GI tract). Children with congenital heart disease are more likely to have more turbulent cardiovascular blood flow, which increases risk for endovascular infection. Similar guidelines have been published for both the United States and the European Union.^{216,217} Catheter-placed bovine jugular valves seem to increase risk of infection.^{218,219} Immunocompromised hosts may become bacteremic with a wide range of bacteria, fungi, and mycobacteria.

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
- Native valve ²¹⁵⁻²¹⁷		
	Ceftriaxone IV 100 mg/kg q24h AND gentamicin IV, IM 6 mg/kg/day div q8h (AII). For more acute, severe infection, ADD vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h to cover <i>S aureus</i> (AIII) (insufficient data to recommend ceftaroline for endocarditis).	Combination (ceftriaxone + gentamicin) provides bactericidal activity against most strains of viridans streptococci, the most common pathogens in infective endocarditis. Cefepime is recommended for adults, ²¹⁵ but resistance data in enteric bacilli in children suggest that ceftriaxone remains a reasonable choice. Ampicillin/sulbactam adds extended anaerobic activity that is not likely to be needed. May administer gentamicin with a qd regimen (CIII). For beta-lactam allergy, use vancomycin 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IV div q8h.
likely pathogens). ^{215,216}		
– Viridans streptococci: follow ech	ocardiogram for resolution of vegetation (BIII); for beta-l	actam allergy: vancomycin.
Fully susceptible to penicillin	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg IV, IM q24h for 4 wk OR penicillin G 200,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 4 wk (BII); OR penicillin G or ceftriaxone AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h (AII) for 14 days for adults (4 wk for children per AHA guidelines due to lack of data in children)	AHA recommends higher dosage of ceftriaxone like that of penicillin non-susceptible strains, but for fully susceptible strains, standard-dose ceftriaxone provides the necessary pharmacodynamic exposure.
Relatively resistant to penicillin	Penicillin G 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 4 wk, or ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg IV q24h for 4 wk; AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h for	Gentamicin is used for the first 2 wk for a total of 4 wk of therapy for relatively resistant strains. Vancomycin-containing regimens should use at least a

– Enterococcus (dosages for native	or prosthetic valve infections)	
Ampicillin-susceptible (gentamicin-S)	Ampicillin 300 mg/kg/day IV, IM div q6h or penicillin G 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h; AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; for 4–6 wk (AII)	Combined treatment with cell wall active antibiotic plus aminoglycoside used to achieve bactericidal activity. Children are not as likely to develop renal toxicity from gentamicin as adults. For beta-lactam allergy: vancomycin. Little data exist in children for daptomycin or linezolid. For gentamicin-resistant strains, use streptomycin or other aminoglycoside if susceptible.
Ampicillin-resistant (gentamicin-S)	Vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; for 6 wk (AIII)	
Vancomycin-resistant (gentamicin-S)	Daptomycin IV if also ampicillin resistant (dose is age dependent; see Chapter 18 for doses) ± gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; for 4–6 wk (AIII).	
- Staphylococci: S aureus, including CA-MRSA; S epidermidis ^{6,211} Consider continuing therapy at end of 6 wk if vegetations persist on echocardiogram. Consider septic thrombophlebitis: the risk of persisting organisms is not defined in deep venous thromboses that may be "seeded" as a result of bacteremia.	MSSA or MSSE: nafcillin or oxacillin/nafcillin 150–200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h for 4–6 wk AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day div q8h for first 14 days. CA-MRSA or MRSE: daptomycin IV ²¹⁴ 8–12 mg/kg/day q24h (BII), OR vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND gentamicin for 6 wk; consider for slow response, ADD rifampin 20 mg/kg/day IV div q8–12h. Insufficient data to recommend ceftaroline routinely for MRSA endocarditis.	Surgery may be necessary in acute phase; avoid first- generation cephalosporins (conflicting data on efficacy). AHA suggests gentamicin for only the first 3–5 days for MSSA or MSSE and optional gentamicin for MRSA. Daptomycin dose is age dependent (see Chapter 18 for doses).

G. CARDIOVASCULAR INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Pneumococcus, gonococcus, group A streptococcus	Penicillin G 200,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 4 wk (BII); alternatives: ceftriaxone or vancomycin	For gonococcal endocarditis: ceftriaxone alone, 1–2 g IV q24h for >4 wk. ⁵⁷ For penicillin non-susceptible strains of pneumococcus, consult with ID specialist but should be able to use high-dosage penicillin G 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h or high-dosage ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg IV q12h or q24h for 4 wk, if supported by pharmacodynamics (eg, the time that penicillin or ceftriaxone is above the MIC of the organism, during the dosing interval).
– HACEK (Haemophilus, Aggregatibacter [formerly Actinobacillus], Cardiobacterium, Eikenella, Kingella spp)	Usually susceptible to ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg IV q24h for 4 wk (BIII)	Some organisms will be ampicillin susceptible. Usually do not require the addition of gentamicin.
– Enteric gram-negative bacilli	Antibiotics specific to pathogen (usually ceftriaxone plus gentamicin); duration at least 6 wk (AllI)	For ESBL organisms, carbapenems or beta-lactam/BL inhibitor combinations, PLUS gentamicin, should be effective. See Chapter 12.
– Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Antibiotic specific to susceptibility: cefepime or meropenem PLUS tobramycin	Both cefepime and meropenem are more active against <i>Pseudomonas</i> and less likely to allow BL-resistant pathogens to emerge than ceftazidime.
- Prosthetic valve/ material ^{215,218,219}	Follow echocardiogram for resolution of vegetation. For beta-lactam allergy: vancomycin.	
– Viridans streptococci		
Fully susceptible to penicillin	Ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg IV, IM q24h for 6 wk OR penicillin G 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 6 wk (AII); OR penicillin G or ceftriaxone AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h for first 2 wk of 6-wk course (AII)	Gentamicin is optional for the first 2 wk for a total of 6 wk of therapy for prosthetic valve/material endocarditis.

Relatively resistant to penicillin	Penicillin G 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 6 wk, or ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg IV q24h for 6 wk; AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h for 6 wk (AIII)	Obtain the MIC of the strep spp to the antibiotic used for treatment; based on expected or measured serum antibiotic concentrations, assess pharmacodynamics (ability to achieve the desired time that penicillin [or ceftriaxone] is above the MIC of the organism, during the dosing supported by the interval). See Chapter 11. Gentamicin is used for all 6 wk of therapy for prosthetic valve/material endocarditis caused by relatively resistant strains.
– Enterococcus (See dosages earlie	er in this table under Native Valve.) Treatment course is a	at least 6 wk, particularly if vancomycin is used. 215,219
 Staphylococci: S aureus, including CA-MRSA; S epidermidis^{6,215} Consider continuing therapy at end of 6 wk if vegetations persist on echocardiogram. 	MSSA or MSSE: nafcillin or oxacillin/nafcillin 150–200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h for ≥6 wk AND gentamicin 6 mg/kg/day div q8h for first 14 days. CA-MRSA or MRSE: daptomycin IV ²¹⁴ 8–12 mg/kg/ day q24h (BII), OR vancomycin 40–60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND gentamicin for ≥6 wk; ADD rifampin 20 mg/kg/day IV div q8–12h.	Daptomycin dose is age and weight dependent (see Chapter 18 for doses).
– Candida ^{83,215,216}	AmB lipid formulation, 3–5 mg/kg q24h with/without flucytosine 100 mg/kg/day div q6h (there is more experience with AmB preparations [no comparative trials against echinocandins]), OR caspofungin 70 mg/m² load on day 1, then 50 mg/m²/day or micafungin 2–4 mg/kg/day (BIII). Do not use fluconazole as initial therapy because of inferior fungistatic effect.	Poor prognosis; please obtain advice from an ID specialist. Surgery may be required to resect infected valve. Long-term suppressive therapy with fluconazole.
– Culture-negative prosthetic valve	e endocarditis: treat at least 6 wk.	

G. CARDIOVASCULAR INFECTIONS (continued)

Clinical Diagnosis Therapy (evidence grade) Comments

Endocarditis antibiotic prophylaxis 216,217,220: endocarditis is rarely caused by dental/GI procedures, and antibiotic prophylaxis for procedures prevents an exceedingly small proportion of endocarditis cases; therefore, the risks of antibiotic prophylaxis outweigh the benefits. Highest-risk conditions currently recommended for prophylaxis for children undergoing procedures: (1) prosthetic heart valve (or prosthetic material used to repair a valve); (2) previous endocarditis; (3) cyanotic congenital heart disease that is unrepaired (or palliatively repaired with shunts and conduits); (4) congenital heart disease that is repaired but with defects at the site of repair adjacent to prosthetic material; (5) completely repaired congenital heart disease by using prosthetic material, for the first 6 mo after repair; or (6) cardiac transplant patients with valvulopathy. Routine prophylaxis is no longer required for children with native valve abnormalities. Assessment of recent prophylaxis guidelines does not document an increase in endocarditis.221

- In highest-risk patients: dental procedures that involve manipulation of the gingival or periodontal region of teeth
- Amoxicillin 50 mg/kg PO 60 min before procedure OR ampicillin or ceftriaxone or cefazolin, all at 50 mg/kg IM/IV 30-60 min before procedure
- If penicillin allergy: clindamycin 20 mg/kg PO (60 min before) or IV (30 min before); OR azithromycin 15 mg/kg or clarithromycin 15 mg/kg, 60 min before (little data to support alternative regimens)

- Genitourinary and GI procedures

(Fusobacterium necrophorum

MRSA)115-119 (pharyngitis with

primarily, new reports with

internal jugular vein septic

None

- Empiric: meropenem 60 mg/kg/day diy g8h (or 120 mg/kg/day div g8h for CNS metastatic foci) (AIII) OR ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day g24h AND metronidazole 40 mg/kg/day diy g8h or clindamycin 40 mg/kg/day div g6h (BIII). thrombosis, postanginal sepsis, ADD empiric vancomycin if MRSA suspected if clindamycin is not in the treatment regimen.
- Anecdotal reports suggest that metronidazole may be effective for apparent failures with other agents. Often requires anticoagulation.

No longer recommended

Metastatic and recurrent abscesses often develop while on active, appropriate therapy, requiring multiple debridements and prolonged antibiotic therapy. Treat until CRP and ESR are normal (AIII).

necrobacillosis) Purulent pericarditis

Lemierre syndrome

- Empiric (acute, bacterial: S aureus [including MRSA], group A streptococcus, pneumococcus, meningococcus: in unimmunized children, H influenzae type b)222,223
- Ceftaroline: 2-<6 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div g8h; ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div g8h (max single dose 600 mg) (BIII), OR vancomycin 40 mg/kg/ day IV div g8h and ceftriaxone 50-75 mg/kg/day q24h (AIII)
- For presumed staph infection, ADD gentamicin (AIII). Increasingly uncommon with immunization against pneumococcus and Hinfluenzae type b.²²³ Pericardiocentesis is essential to establish diagnosis. Surgical drainage of pus with pericardial window or pericardiectomy is important to prevent tamponade.

– S aureus	For MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin 150–200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h OR cefazolin 100 mg/kg/day IV div q8h. Treat for 2–3 wk after drainage (BIII). For CA-MRSA: continue ceftaroline or vancomycin. Treat for 3–4 wk after drainage (BIII).	Continue therapy with gentamicin; consider use of rifampin in severe cases due to tissue penetration characteristics.
– <i>H influenzae</i> type b in unimmunized children	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h for 10–14 days (AIII)	Ampicillin for BL-negative strains
– Pneumococcus, meningococcus, group A streptococcus	Penicillin G 200,000 U/kg/day IV, IM div q6h for 10–14 days OR ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg qd for 10–14 days (AllI)	Ceftriaxone for penicillin non-susceptible pneumococci
– Coliform bacilli	Ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg/day q24h for ≥3 wk (AIII)	Alternative drugs depending on susceptibilities; for Enterobacter, Serratia, or Citrobacter, use cefepime or meropenem. For ESBL E coli or Klebsiella, use a carbapenem.
– Tuberculous ¹⁶	INH 10–15 mg/kg/day (max 300 mg) PO, IV qd, for 6 mo AND rifampin 10–20 mg/kg/day (max 600 mg) PO qd, IV for 6 mo. ADD PZA 20–40 mg/ kg/day PO qd for first 2 mo of therapy; if suspected multidrug resistance, also add ethambutol 20 mg/kg/day PO qd (AIII).	Current guidelines do not suggest a benefit from routine use of corticosteroids. However, for those at highest risk for restrictive pericarditis, steroid continues to be recommended. For children: prednisone 2 mg/kg/day for 4 wk, then 0.5 mg/kg/day for 4 wk, then 0.1 mg/kg/day for 1 wk.

H. GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTIONS (See Chapter 9 for parasitic infections.)

Clinical Diagnosis Therapy (evidence grade) Comments

Diarrhea/Gastroenteritis

Note on Escherichia coli and diarrheal disease: Antibiotic susceptibility of E coli varies considerably from region to region. For mild to moderate disease, TMP/SMX may be started as initial therapy, but for more severe disease and for locations with rates of TMP/SMX resistance > 10%–20%, azithromycin, an oral third-generation cephalosporin (eg, cefixime, cefdinir, ceftibuten), or ciprofloxacin should be used (AlII). Diagnostic testing by traditional cultures with antibiotic susceptibility testing is recommended for significant disease (AlII). New molecular tests (particularly multiplex PCR tests) are commercially available and quite helpful to diagnose specific pathogens but do not provide susceptibility information

- Empiric therapy for communityassociated diarrhea in the United States (*E coli* [STEC, including 0157:H7 strains, and ETEC], *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and *Shigella* predominate; *Yersinia* and parasites cause <5%; viral pathogens are far more common, especially for children <3 y.)^{224,225}
- Azithromycin 10 mg/kg qd for 3 days (BII); OR ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 3 days; OR cefixime 8 mg/kg/day PO qd (BII). Current recommendation is to avoid treatment of Shiga toxin–containing (STEC O157:H7) strains²²⁴
- Alternatives: third-generation cephalosporins (eg, ceftriaxone); have been shown effective in uncomplicated Salmonella Typhi infections.

 Rifaximin is a nonabsorbable rifamycin not to be used in cases of invasive bacterial enteritis: 600 mg/day div tid for 3 days (for nonfebrile, non-bloody diarrhea in children ≥12 y).
- Retrospective data exist for treatment of O157:H7 strains to support either withholding treatment or administering it (including retrospective data on treatment with azithromycin). Antitoxins and immune globulins are under investigation. 226-229

- Travelers diarrhea: empiric therapy (<i>E coli, Campylobacter, Salmonella</i> , and <i>Shigella</i> , plus many other pathogens, including protozoa) ²³⁰⁻²³⁶ The CDC provides updated advice both pre-travel and post-travel at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/clinician-information-center (reviewed March 7, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022). See 2017 guidelines from International Society of Travel Medicine: https://academic.oup.com/jtm/article/24/suppl_1/S63/3782742 (accessed September 21, 2022). ²³³	For mild diarrhea, treatment is not recommended. ²³³ Azithromycin 10 mg/kg qd for 1–3 days (AII); OR rifaximin 200 mg PO tid for 3 days (age ≥12 y) (BIII); OR ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 3 days (BII).	Susceptibility patterns of <i>E coli</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , and <i>Shigella</i> vary widely by country, with increasing resistance to commonly used antibiotics; check the CDC and country-specific data for departing or returning travelers. Azithromycin preferable to ciprofloxacin for travelers to Southeast Asia given high prevalence of quinolone-resistant <i>Campylobacter</i> . Rifaximin, not to be used in cases of invasive bacterial enteritis. Interestingly, for adults who travel and take antibiotics (mostly fluoroquinolones), colonization with ESBL-positive <i>E coli</i> is more frequent on return home. ²³⁷ Adjunctive therapy with loperamide (antimotility) is not recommended for children <2 y and should be used only in nonfebrile, non-bloody diarrhea. ^{231,235,238} May shorten symptomatic illness by about 24 h.
 Travelers diarrhea: prophylaxis^{230,231,233} 	may use prophylaxis for a short-term (<14 days) vi	oreviously is preferred over long-term prophylaxis, but isit to very high-risk region: rifaximin (for children ≥12 y), ne used for prevention, due to potential cartilage toxicity.
– Aeromonas hydrophila ²³⁹	Ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 5 days OR cefixime 8 mg/kg/day PO qd (BIII)	Not all strains produce enterotoxins and diarrhea; role in diarrhea questioned. ²³⁹ Resistance to TMP/SMX about 10%–15%. Choose narrowest-spectrum agent based on in vitro susceptibilities.
– Campylobacter jejuni ^{240,241}	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day for 3 days (BII) or erythromycin 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 5 days (BII)	Alternatives: doxycycline or ciprofloxacin (high rate of fluoroquinolone resistance in Thailand, India, and now the United States). Single-dose azithromycin (1 g, once) is effective in adults.

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Cholera ^{242,243}	Azithromycin 20 mg/kg once; OR erythromycin 50 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 3 days; OR doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid, for all ages	Ciprofloxacin or TMP/SMX (if susceptible)
 Clostridioides (formerly Clostridium) difficile (antibiotic- associated colitis)^{244–248} 	Treatment stratified by severity and recurrence. First episode: Mild to moderate illness: metronidazole 30 mg/kg/day PO div qid. Moderate to severe illness: vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 7 days. Severe and complicated/systemic: vancomycin PO AND metronidazole IV; consider vancomycin enema (500 mg/100 mL physiologic [normal] saline) soln q8h until improvement). ^{244,245} For relapsing <i>C difficile</i> enteritis, consider pulse therapy (1 wk on/1 wk off for 3–4 cycles) or prolonged tapering therapy.	Attempt to stop antibiotics that may have represented the cause of <i>C difficile</i> infection. Vancomycin is more effective for severe infection. Fidaxomicin approved for adults and children down to 6 mo of age. Many infants and children may have asymptomatic colonization with <i>C difficile</i> . Higher risk for relapse in children with multiple comorbidities. Stool transplant for failure of medical therapy in recurrent enteritis.
– E coli		
Enterotoxigenic (etiology of most travelers diarrhea) ^{231–234}	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg qd for 3 days (All); OR ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 3 days (Bll); OR cefixime 8 mg/kg/day PO qd for 3 days (CIII)	Most illnesses are brief and self-limited and may not require treatment. Alternatives: rifaximin 600 mg/day div tid for 3 days (for nonfebrile, non-bloody diarrhea in children ≥12 y, as rifaximin is not absorbed systemically); OR TMP/SMX. Resistance increasing worldwide; check country-specific rates.

Enterohemorrhagic (O157:H7; STEC, etiology of HUS) ^{224,226–229}	Current recommendations are to avoid treatment of STEC 0157:H7 strains. ²²⁴ Retrospective data exist for treatment of 0157:H7 strains to support either withholding treatment or administering it (including retrospective data on treatment with azithromycin). ²²⁶⁻²²⁹	Animal model data suggest that some antibiotics (rifamycins) are less likely to increase toxin production than fluoroquinolones. ²⁴⁹ Injury to colonic mucosa may lead to invasive bacterial colitis that does require antimicrobial therapy.
– Gastritis, peptic ulcer disease (Helicobacter pylori) ²⁵⁰⁻²⁵²	Triple-agent therapy in areas of low clarithromycin resistance: clarithromycin 7.5 mg/kg/dose 2–3 times each day, AND amoxicillin 40 mg/kg/dose (max 1 g) PO bid AND omeprazole 0.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid 14 days (BII), OR quadruple therapy that includes metronidazole (15 mg/kg/day div bid) added to the regimen described previously ^{250,252}	Resistance to clarithromycin is as high as 20% in some regions. 250,253 Current approach for empiric therapy if clarithromycin resistance may be present: high-dose triple therapy is recommended with proton pump inhibitor, amoxicillin, and metronidazole for 14 days ± bismuth to create quadruple therapy. 250 Metronidazole resistance reported. 250 Newer, fluoroquinolone-based treatment combinations used in adults with clarithromycin resistance. 251
– Giardiasis (see Chapter 9) (<i>Giardia intestinalis,</i> formerly <i>lamblia</i>) ²⁵⁴	Tinidazole ²⁵⁵ (for age ≥3 y) 50 mg/kg/day (max 2 g) for 1 day (BII); OR nitazoxanide PO (take with food), age 12–47 mo, 100 mg/dose bid for 3 days; age 4–11 y, 200 mg/dose bid for 3 days; age ≥12 y, 1 tab (500 mg) bid for 3 days (BII).	If therapy is unsuccessful, another course of the same agent is usually curative. Alternatives: metronidazole 20–30 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 7–10 days (BII); OR paromomycin OR albendazole (CII), OR mebendazole OR furazolidone. Prolonged or combination drug courses may be needed for immunocompromised conditions (eg, hypogammaglobulinemia). Treatment of asymptomatic carriers not usually recommended.

H. GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTIONS (continued) (See Chapter 9 for parasitic infections.) **Clinical Diagnosis** Therapy (evidence grade) Comments Non-typhoid strains^{256,257} Usually none for self-limited diarrhea in Alternatives: ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for immunocompetent child (eg. diarrhea is often 5 days (AI). much improved by the time culture results are Carriage of strains may be prolonged in treated available). children Treat children with persisting symptomatic For bacteremic infection, ceftriaxone IM/IV may be infection and all infants <3 mo (greater risk for initially used until secondary sites of infection (bone/ bacteremia): azithromycin 10 mg/kg PO gd for ioint, liver/spleen, CNS) are ruled out, for a total of 3 days (AII): OR ceftriaxone 75 mg/kg/day IV, IM 7-10 days.257 g24h for 5 days (AII); OR cefixime 20-30 mg/kg/ day PO for 5-7 days (BII); OR for susceptible strains: TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div bid for 14 days (AI). Typhoid fever²⁵⁸⁻²⁶¹ Azithromycin 20 mg/kg qd for 5 days (AII); OR Increasing cephalosporin resistance. 257,262 For newly ceftriaxone 75 mg/kg/day IV, IM g24h for 5 days emergent MDR strains, may require prolonged IV (AII); OR cefixime 20-30 mg/kg/day PO div g12h therapy. for 14 days (BII): OR for susceptible strains: Amoxicillin does not achieve high colonic intraluminal ampicillin OR TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO concentrations or high intracellular concentrations. Alternative if susceptible: ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day div bid for 14 days (AI) PO div bid for 5-7 days (AI).260 Longer treatment courses for focal invasive disease (eq. osteomyelitis). - Shigellosis^{234,263-265} Mild episodes do not require treatment. Alternatives for susceptible strains: TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/ Azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day PO for 3 days (AII); OR day of TMP PO div bid for 5 days; OR ampicillin (not ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for amoxicillin). 3-5 days (BII); OR cefixime²³⁴ 8 mg/kg/day PO gd Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IM, IV if parenteral therapy for 5 days (All). necessary, for 2-5 days. Avoid antiperistaltic drugs. Treatment for the improving child is not usually necessary to hasten recovery, but some experts would treat to decrease communicability.

– Yersinia enterocolitica^{266–268}

Antimicrobial therapy probably not of value for mild disease in normal hosts.

TMP/SMX PO, IV; OR ciprofloxacin PO, IV (BIII).

Parenteral therapy for more severe infection: ceftriaxone plus gentamicin.

High rates of resistance to ampicillin. May mimic appendicitis in older children. Limited clinical data exist on oral therapy.

Intra-abdominal infection (abscess, peritonitis secondary to bowel/appendix contents)

 Appendicitis, bowel-associated (enteric gram-negative bacilli, Bacteroides spp, Enterococcus spp, Pseudomonas spp)²⁶⁹⁻²⁷⁴ Source control is critical to curing this infection. Newer data suggest that stratification of cases is important to assess the effect of surgical and medical therapy on outcomes, and using just a one-size-fits-all antibiotic recommendation may not be the best approach. 269-271,275

Meropenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h or imipenem 60 mg/kg/day IV div q6h; OR pip/tazo 240 mg/kg/day pip component div q6h; for 4–5 days for patients with adequate source control,²⁷³ ≥7–10 days if suspicion of persisting intraabdominal abscess (AII).

Pseudomonas is found consistently in up to 30% of children, 270,273,276 providing evidence to document the need for empiric use of an antipseudomonal drug (preferably one with anaerobic activity), such as a carbapenem or pip/tazo, unless the surgery was highly effective at drainage/source control (gentamicin is not active in an abscess), which may explain successful outcomes in retrospective studies that did not include antipseudomonal coverage. 275,277,278

Many other regimens may be effective. Because retrospective data are published from different centers, be aware that the patient populations, extent of disease, and surgical approach to treatment are not standardized across hospitals, so antibiotic(s) that work in institution A may not be as effective in institution B.^{270,271}

Options include ampicillin 150 mg/kg/day div q8h AND gentamicin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day IV, IM div q8h AND metronidazole 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; OR ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg q24h AND metronidazole 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h.

Data support IV outpatient therapy or oral step-down therapy^{274,276,279} when clinically improved, particularly when oral therapy can be focused on the most prominent, invasive cultured pathogens.

Publications on outcomes of antibiotic therapy regimens (IV or PO) without culture data cannot be accurately interpreted.

H. GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTIONS (continued) (See Chapter 9 for parasitic infections.) **Clinical Diagnosis** Therapy (evidence grade) Comments - Tuberculosis, abdominal INH 10-15 mg/kg/day (max 300 mg) PO gd for 6-9 Corticosteroids have been routinely used as adjunctive (Mycobacterium boyis, from mo AND rifampin 10-20 mg/kg/day (max 600 therapy to decrease morbidity from unpasteurized dairy products in mg) PO gd for 6-9 mo (All). inflammation 282,283 the United States, 15,16,280,281 and DOT preferred: after 2+ wk of daily therapy, can change Some experts recommend routine use of in parts of the world, as a ethambutol in the empiric regimen. to twice-weekly dosing double dosage of INH (max complication of systemic TB 900 mg); rifampin remains same dosage (10-20 mg/ M bovis is resistant to PZA. caused by Mycobacterium If risk factors are present for multidrug resistance kg/dav, max 600 mg) (All). LP \pm CT of head for children <2 v with active disease tuberculosis)282 (eg. poor adherence to previous therapy), ADD ethambutol 20 mg/kg/day PO gd OR a to rule out occult, concurrent CNS infection (AIII). fluoroguinolone (moxifloxacin or levofloxacin). No published prospective comparative data on a 6-mo vs 9-mo treatment course in children. Perirectal abscess (Bacteroides Clindamycin 30-40 mg/kg/day IV div g8h AND Surgical drainage alone may be curative. Obtaining spp, other anaerobes, enteric ceftriaxone or gentamicin (BIII) cultures and susceptibilities is increasingly important bacilli, and Staphylococcus with rising resistance to cephalosporins in aureus predominate.)284 community E coli isolates. May represent inflammatory bowel disease. **Peritonitis** - Peritoneal dialysis indwelling Antibiotic added to dialysate in concentrations Selection of antibiotic based on organism isolated from approximating those attained in serum for peritoneal fluid; systemic antibiotics if there is catheter infection (staphylococci; enteric gramsystemic disease (eq. 4 mcg/mL for gentamicin, accompanying bacteremia/fungemia negative bacilli; yeast)285,286 25 mcg/mL for vancomycin, 125 mcg/mL for cefazolin, 25 mcg/mL for ciprofloxacin) after a larger loading dose (AII)286 - Primary (pneumococcus or Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day g24h; if pen-S, then Other antibiotics according to culture and susceptibility group A streptococcus)287 penicillin G 150,000 U/kg/day IV div g6h; for tests. Spontaneous pneumococcal peritonitis now 7-10 days (AII) infrequent in PCV13-immunized children.

I. GENITAL AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
	STIs in a child with one documented STI; consider sexus rate posted online at www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guid	
Chancroid (Haemophilus ducreyi) ⁵⁷	Azithromycin 1 g PO as single dose OR ceftriaxone 250 mg IM as single dose	Alternative: erythromycin 1.5 g/day PO div tid for 7 days; OR ciprofloxacin 1,000 mg PO qd, div bid for 3 days
Chlamydia trachomatis (cervicitis, urethritis) ⁵⁷	Doxycycline (patients >7 y) 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 7 days; OR azithromycin 20 mg/kg (max 1 g) PO for 1 dose	Alternatives: erythromycin 2 g/day PO div qid for 7 days; OR levofloxacin 500 mg PO q24h for 7 days
Epididymitis (associated with positive urine cultures and STIs) ^{57,288}	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day q24h for 7–10 days AND (for older children) doxycycline 200 mg/day div bid for 10 days	Microbiology not well studied in children; in infants, also associated with urogenital tract anomalies. Postviral inflammation may be one etiology of epididymitis in boys. ²⁸⁸ Treat infants for <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> ; may resolve spontaneously; in STI, treat for <i>Chlamydia</i> and gonococcus.
Gonorrhea ^{56,57,289,290}	Antibiotic resistance is an ongoing problem, with ne resistance. 56,289,290	w data suggesting the emergence of global azithromycin
– Newborns	See Chapter 2.	

I. GENITAL AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
 Genital infections (uncomplicated vulvovaginitis, cervicitis, urethritis, or proctitis) and pharyngitis^{56,57,289,290} 	2021 CDC guidelines for uncomplicated GC ⁵⁶ : ceftriaxone 25–50 mg/kg IV/IM in a single dose, not to exceed 250 mg in children ≤45 kg and not to exceed 500 mg in those >45 kg. For adults, the CDC no longer recommends azithromycin (1 g PO for 1 dose), although for most adolescents, azithromycin should still be effective. If azithromycin is not prescribed, then doxycycline 200 mg/day div q12h for 7 days should be used for possible coinfection with chlamydia.	Increased dose of ceftriaxone to reflect small decreases in documented in vitro susceptibility for GC; azithromycin no longer recommended, with 4% of strains overall with resistance, but highest resistance rates found in isolates from MSM. If ceftriaxone is not available, give gentamicin 240 mg IM as a single dose plus azithromycin 2 g PO as a single dose OR cefixime 800 mg PO as a single dose. Se Fluoroquinolones are not recommended due to resistance.
– Conjunctivitis ⁵⁷	Ceftriaxone 1g IM for 1 dose	Lavage the eye with saline.
– Disseminated gonococcal infection ^{56,57}	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IM, IV q24h (max 1 g) AND azithromycin 1 g PO for 1 dose; total course for 7 days	No studies in children: increase dosage for meningitis.
Granuloma inguinale (donovanosis; Klebsiella [formerly Calymmatobacterium] granulomatis) ⁵⁷	Azithromycin 1 g PO once weekly or 500 mg qd for at least 3 wk and until all lesions have completely healed	Primarily in tropical regions of India, Pacific, and Africa. Options: doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day div bid (max 200 mg/day) PO for at least 3 wk OR ciprofloxacin 750 mg PO bid for at least 3 wk, OR erythromycin base 500 mg PO qid for at least 3 wk OR TMP/SMX 1 double-strength (160-mg/800-mg) tab PO bid for at least 3 wk; all regimens continue until all lesions have completely healed.

Herpes simplex virus, genital infection ^{57,291,292}	Acyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose (max 400 mg) PO tid for 7–10 days (first episode) (Al); OR valacyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose (directions for extemporaneous suspension on package label), max 1 g PO bid for 7–10 days (first episode) (Al); OR famciclovir 250 mg PO tid for 7–10 days (Al); for more severe infection: acyclovir 15 mg/kg/day IV div q8h as 1-h infusion for 7–10 days (AlI)	For recurrent episodes: treat with acyclovir PO, valacyclovir PO, or famciclovir PO, immediately when symptoms begin, for 5 days. For suppression: acyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose (max 400 mg) PO bid; OR valacyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose PO qd (max 500 mg to start, or 1 g for difficult to suppress). Prophylaxis is recommended by ACOG in pregnant women. ²⁹²
Lymphogranuloma venereum (C trachomatis) ⁵⁷	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO (patients >7 y) div bid for 21 days	Alternatives: erythromycin 2 g/day PO div qid for 21 days; OR azithromycin 1 g PO once weekly for 3 wk
Pelvic inflammatory disease (Chlamydia or gonococcus, plus anaerobes) ^{57,293}	Cefoxitin 2 g IV q6h; AND doxycycline 200 mg/day PO or IV div bid; OR cefotetan 2 g IV q12h AND doxycycline 100 mg PO or IV q12h, OR clindamycin 900 mg IV q8h AND gentamicin 1.5 mg/kg IV, IM q8h until clinical improvement for 24 h, followed by doxycycline 200 mg/day PO div bid (AND clindamycin 1,800 mg/day PO div qid for tubo-ovarian abscess) to complete 14 days of therapy	Optional regimen: ceftriaxone 250 mg IM for 1 dose AND doxycycline 200 mg/day PO div bid; WITH/ WITHOUT metronidazole 1 g/day PO div bid; for 14 days
Syphilis ^{57,294} (Test for HIV.)	Penicillin G regimens are preferred. ⁵⁷	
– Congenital	See Chapter 2.	
 Neurosyphilis (positive CSF VDRL or CSF pleocytosis with serologic diagnosis of syphilis) 	Penicillin G crystalline 200–300,000 U/kg/day (max 24 million U/day) div q6h for 10–14 days (AllI)	For adults: penicillin G procaine 2.4 million U IM daily PLUS probenecid 500 mg PO qid, for 10 to 14 days OR ceftriaxone 2 g IV daily for 10 to 14 days

I. GENITAL AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (continued)			
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments	
– Primary, secondary	Penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg (max 2.4 million U) IM as a single dose (AIII); do not use benzathine-procaine penicillin mixtures.	Follow-up serologic tests at 6, 12, and 24 mo; 15% may remain seropositive despite adequate treatment. Alternatives if penicillin-allergic: doxycycline (patients >7 y) 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg) PO div bid for 14 days, Oc cetfriaxone 1 g daily for 10 days. CSF examination should be performed for children being treated for primary or secondary syphilis to rule out asymptomatic neurosyphilis. Test for HIV.	
 Syphilis lasting for <1 y, without clinical symptoms (early latent syphilis) 	Penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg (max 2.4 million U) IM weekly for 3 doses (AIII)	Alternative if allergy to penicillin: doxycycline (patients >7 y) 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 14 days	
 Syphilis lasting for >1 y, without clinical symptoms (late latent syphilis) or syphilis lasting for unknown duration 	Penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg (max 2.4 million U) IM weekly for 3 doses (AIII)	Alternative if allergy to penicillin: doxycycline (patients >7 y) 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 28 days. Look for neurologic, eye, and aortic complications of tertiary syphilis.	
Trichomoniasis ⁵⁷	Tinidazole 50 mg/kg (max 2 g) PO for 1 dose (BII) OR metronidazole 500 mg PO bid for 7 days (preferred for women) OR metronidazole 2 g PO for 1 dose (BII)		
Urethritis, nongonococcal (See Gonorrhea earlier in this table for gonorrhea therapy.) ^{57,295}	Azithromycin 20 mg/kg (max 1 g) PO for 1 dose, OR doxycycline (patients >7 y) 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 7 days (All)	Erythromycin, levofloxacin, or ofloxacin Increasing resistance noted in <i>Mycoplasma</i> genitalium ²⁹⁵	

Vaginitis ⁵⁷		
– Bacterial vaginosis ^{57,296}	Metronidazole 500 mg PO bid for 7 days OR metronidazole vaginal gel (0.75%) qd for 5 days, OR clindamycin vaginal cream for 7 days	Alternative: tinidazole 1 g PO qd for 5 days, OR clindamycin 300 mg PO bid for 7 days Relapse common Caused by synergy of <i>Gardnerella</i> with anaerobes
– Candidiasis, vulvovaginal ^{57,297}	Topical vaginal cream/tabs/suppositories (alphabetic order): butoconazole, clotrimazole, econazole, fenticonazole, miconazole, sertaconazole, terconazole, or tioconazole for 3–7 days (Al); OR fluconazole 10 mg/kg (max 150 mg) as a single dose (All)	For uncomplicated vulvovaginal candidiasis, no topical agent is clearly superior. For severe acute <i>Candida</i> vulvovaginitis, fluconazole (max 150 mg) given q72h for a total of 2 or 3 doses. Avoid azoles during pregnancy. For recurring disease, consider 10–14 days of induction with topical agent or fluconazole, followed by fluconazole once weekly for 6 mo (AI).
– Prepubertal vaginitis ^{298,299}	No prospective studies	Cultures from symptomatic prepubertal girls are statistically more likely to yield <i>E coli</i> , enterococcus, coagulase-negative staphylococci, and streptococci (viridans streptococcus and group A streptococcus), but these organisms may also be present in asymptomatic girls.
– Streptococcus, group A ³⁰⁰	Penicillin V 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 10 days	Amoxicillin 50–75 mg/kg/day PO div tid

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Abscess, brain (respiratory tract flora, skin flora, or bowel flora, depending on the pathogenesis of infection [direct extension or bacteremia]) ^{301,302}	Until etiology established, use empiric therapy for presumed mixed-flora infection with origins from the respiratory tract, skin, and/or bowel, based on individual patient evaluation and risk for brain abscess (see Comments for MRSA considerations): Meropenem 120 mg/kg/day div q8h (AlII); OR nafcillin 150–200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h AND ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h AND metronidazole 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (BIII); for 2–3 wk after successful drainage (depending on pathogen, size of abscess, and response to therapy); longer course if no surgery (3–6 wk) (BIII). Follow resolution by imaging.	Surgery for abscesses ≥2 cm in diameter. For single pathogen abscess, use a single agent in doses that will achieve effective CNS exposure. The blood-brain barrier is not intact in brain abscesses. If CA-MRSA suspected, ADD vancomycin 60 mg/kg/da/IV div q8h ± rifampin 20 mg/kg/da/IV div q12h, pending culture results. We have successfully treated MRSA intracranial infections with ceftaroline, but no prospective data exist. If secondary to chronic otitis, include meropenem or cefepime in regimen for anti-Pseudomonas activity. For enteric gram-negative bacilli, consider ESBL-producing Escherichia coli and Klebsiella that require meropenem and resist ceftriaxone.
Encephalitis ³⁰³ (may be infectious - Amebic (<i>Naegleria fowleri, Balamuthia mandrillaris</i> , and <i>Acanthamoeba</i>)	or immune-complex mediated () See Amebiasis in Chapter 9, Table 9B.	
– CMV	See Cytomegalovirus in Chapter 7, Table 7C. Not well studied in children. Consider ganciclovir 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h; for severe immunocompromised, ADD foscarnet 180 mg/ kg/day IV div q8h for 3 wk.	Follow quantitative PCR in CSF for CMV DNA. Reduce dose for renal insufficiency. Watch for neutropenia.
– Enterovirus	Supportive therapy; no antivirals currently FDA approved	Pocapavir PO is currently under investigation for enterovirus (poliovirus). As of July 2022, it is not available for compassionate use. Pleconaril has been evaluated for treatment of neonatal enteroviral sepsis syndrome. 305 As of July 2022, it is not available for compassionate use.

– EBV ³⁰⁶	Not studied in a controlled comparative trial. Consider ganciclovir 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h or acyclovir 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h for 3 wk.	Follow quantitative PCR in CSF for EBV DNA. Efficacy of antiviral therapy not well-defined.
– HSV ³⁰⁷ (See Chapter 2 for neonatal infection.)	Acyclovir 60 mg/kg/day IV as 1- to 2-h infusion div q8h for 21 days for ≤4 mo; for those >4 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV for 21 days (AIII)	Perform CSF HSV PCR near end of 21 days of therapy, and continue acyclovir until PCR negative. Safety of high-dose acyclovir (60 mg/kg/day) not well-defined beyond the neonatal period; can be used, but monitor for neurotoxicity and nephrotoxicity; FDA has approved acyclovir at this dosage for encephalitis for children up to 12 y.
 Toxoplasma (See Chapter 2 for neonatal congenital infection.) 	See Chapter 9.	
 Arbovirus (flavivirus—Japanese encephalitis, Zika, West Nile, St Louis encephalitis, tick-borne encephalitis; togavirus— western equine encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis; bunyavirus—La Crosse encephalitis, California encephalitis)^{303,308} 	Supportive therapy	Investigational only (antiviral, interferon, immune globulins). No specific antiviral agents are yet commercially available for any of the arboviruses, including Zika or West Nile.

Meningitis, bacterial, community-associated

NOTES

- Pediatric community-associated bacterial meningitis is quite uncommon in the era of conjugate vaccines. Rare cases caused by non-vaccine strains of *Pneumococcus*, or occurring in immunocompromised children, may still occur. The incidence of highly resistant pneumococci in invasive pediatric infections is so low that vancomycin is no longer needed for empiric therapy (toxicity of exposure is no longer justified). Ceftriaxone resistance is no longer a public health issue at this time.
- Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg/day IV div q6h for 2 days as an adjunct to antibiotic therapy decreases hearing deficits and other neurologic sequelae
 in adults and children (for Haemophilus and pneumococcus; not prospectively studied in children for meningococcus or E coli). The first dose of
 dexamethasone is given before or concurrent with the first dose of antibiotic; probably little benefit if given ≥1 h after the antibiotic.^{309,310}

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Empiric therapy ³¹¹	Ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h (AII)	Vancomycin is no longer needed for empiric treatment of possible pen-R pneumococcus given current, exceedingly high ceftriaxone susceptibility in North America. 312 The blood barrier is not competent early in the antibiotic treatment course, allowing increased penetration as culture/susceptibility results are pending. The first case of ceftriaxone treatment failure 30 y ago initially responded to our treatment with ceftriaxone. 313
– <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b ³¹¹ in unimmunized children	Ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h; for 10 days (AI)	Alternative: ampicillin 200–400 mg/kg/day IV div q6h (for BL-negative strains)
– Meningococcus (<i>Neisseria</i> meningitidis) ³¹¹	Penicillin G 250,000 U/kg/day IV div q4h; or ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h, or cefotaxime 200 mg/kg/day IV div q6h; treatment course for 7 days (AI)	Meningococcal prophylaxis: rifampin 10 mg/kg PO q12h for 4 doses OR ceftriaxone 125–250 mg IM once OR ciprofloxacin 500 mg PO once (adolescents and adults)
– Neonatal	See Chapter 2.	
– Pneumococcus (Streptococcus pneumoniae) ^{311,312}	For pen-S and cephalosporin-susceptible strains: penicillin G 250,000 U/kg/day IV div q4-6h, OR ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h; for 10 days (AI). For pen-R pneumococci (assuming ceftriaxone susceptibility): continue ceftriaxone IV for total course (AIII).	Some pneumococci may be resistant to penicillin but may still be susceptible to ceftriaxone and may be treated with the cephalosporin alone. For the rare ceftriaxone-resistant strain present in some parts of the world, add vancomycin to ceftriaxone (once resistance is suspected or documented) to complete a 14-day course. With the efficacy of current pneumococcal conjugate vaccines, primary bacterial meningitis is uncommon, and penicillin resistance has decreased substantially.

Meningitis, TB (Mycobacterium tuberculosis; Mycobacterium boyis) 15,16

For non-immunocompromised children: INH 15 mg/kg/day PO, IV div q12–24h AND rifampin 15 mg/kg/day PO, IV div q12–24h for 12 mo AND PZA 30 mg/kg/day PO div q12–24h for first 2 mo of therapy, AND streptomycin 30 mg/kg/day IV, IM div q12h or ethionamide for first 4–8 wk of therapy; followed by INH and rifampin combination therapy to complete at least 12 mo for the total course. Streptomycin or ethionamide is used instead of ethambutol in children (primarily infants, who have this infection), due to difficulty assessing optic neuritis from ethambutol, and the lower risk for MDR strains causing infection.

M bovis strains are intrinsically resistant to PZA.

Hyponatremia from inappropriate ADH secretion is common; ventricular drainage may be necessary for obstructive hydrocephalus.

Administer corticosteroids (can use the same dexamethasone dose as for bacterial meningitis, 0.6 mg/kg/day IV div q6h) for 4 wk until neurologically stable, then taper dose for 1–3 mo to decrease neurologic complications and improve prognosis by decreasing the incidence of infarction.³¹⁴ Watch for rebound inflammation during taper; increase dose to previously effective level, then taper more slowly.

For recommendations for drug-resistant strains and treatment of TB in HIV-infected patients, visit the CDC website for TB: www.cdc.gov/tb (reviewed March 17, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022).

Shunt infections: The use of antibiotic-impregnated shunts has decreased the frequency of this infection.³¹⁵ Shunt removal is usually necessary for cure, with placement of a new external ventricular drain; intraventricular injection of antibiotics should be considered in children responding poorly to systemic antibiotic therapy. Duration of therapy varies by pathogen and response to treatment.³¹¹

 Empiric therapy pending Gram stain and culture³¹¹ Vancomycin 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h, AND ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q24h (AII)

If Gram stain shows only gram-positive cocci, can start with vancomycin alone.

Cefepime, meropenem, or ceftazidime should be used instead of ceftriaxone if *Pseudomonas* is suspected. For ESBL-containing gram-negative bacilli, meropenem should be used as the preferred carbapenem for CNS infection.

J. CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Staphylococcus epidermidis or Staphylococcus aureus ³¹¹	Vancomycin (for S epidermidis and CA-MRSA) 60 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; OR nafcillin (if organisms susceptible) 150–200 mg/kg/day AND rifampin; for 10–14 days (AllI)	For children who cannot tolerate vancomycin, ceftaroline has anecdotally been successful in our hands and others': ceftaroline³¹¹6: 2-<6 mo, 30 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h); ≥6 mo, 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (each dose given over 2 h) (max single dose 600 mg) (BIII). Linezolid, daptomycin, and TMP/SMX are other untested options.
– Gram-negative bacilli ³¹¹	Empiric therapy with meropenem 120 mg/kg/day IV div q8h OR cefepime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AIII) For <i>E coli</i> (without ESBLs): ceftriaxone 100 mg/kg/day IV q12h for at least 10–14 days, preferably 21 days	Remove shunt. Select appropriate therapy based on in vitro susceptibilities. Meropenem, ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, and cefepime have all been studied in pediatric meningitis. Systemic gentamicin as combination therapy is not routinely recommended with carbapenems and cefepime. Intrathecal therapy with aminoglycosides not routinely necessary with highly active beta-lactam therapy and shunt removal. See Chapter 12.

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
laboratory for susceptibilities fro acquired). For mild disease, TMP acceptable. Amoxicillin resistand begin an oral second- or third-g	om urinary tract isolates in your clinic (community-acqui //SMX may be started as initial empiric therapy if local su ce in most communities is >50%. For moderate to severe	isceptibility is ≥80%, and up to a 20% failure rate is e disease (possible pyelonephritis), obtain cultures and cefixime, ceftibuten, cefdinir, cefpodoxime), ciprofloxaci
Cystitis, acute (E coli) ^{317–319}	For mild to moderate disease: TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP PO div bid for 3 days (see NOTE above about resistance to TMP/SMX), OR cephalexin 50–75 mg/kg/day div q8–12h. In children, for moderate to severe disease, it is often difficult to distinguish between upper tract and lower tract infections: cefixime 8 mg/kg/day PO qd; OR ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg IM q24h for 3–5 days (with normal anatomy) (BII); follow-up culture after 36–48 h of treatment ONLY if still symptomatic.	Alternative: amoxicillin 30 mg/kg/day PO div tid OR amox/clav PO if susceptible (BII); ciprofloxacin 20–30 mg/kg/day PO div bid for suspected or documented resistant (including ESBL-producing) organisms. ³²⁰ Gentamicin is another option with excellent activity against community strains of <i>E coli</i> , but it is only IM or IV and is nephrotoxic. End-of-therapy cultures are not routinely recommended.
Nephronia, lobar E coli and other enteric rods (also called "focal bacterial nephritis") ^{321,322}	Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h. Duration depends on resolution of renal cellulitis vs development of abscess (10–21 days) (AlII). For ESBL-positive <i>E coli</i> , carbapenems and fluoroquinolones are often active agents.	Nephronia, a complication of pyelonephritis, is an invasive, consolidative parenchymal infection; it can evolve into renal abscess. Step-down therapy with oral cephalosporins once cellulitis/abscess has initially responded to therapy.

V. LIDINIADY TRACT INTECTIONS

K. URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS (continued)

Clinical Diagnosis

Therapy (evidence grade)

Pyelonephritis, acute

Ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h OR gentamicin 5–6 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h (yes, qd). For documented or suspected ceftriaxone-resistant ESBL-positive strains, use meropenem IV, imipenem IV, or ertapenem IV^{192,324,325}, OR gentamicin IV/IM, pip/tazo, OR tol/taz. Switch to oral therapy following clinical response (BII). If organism resistant to amoxicillin and TMP/SMX, use an oral first-, second-, or third-generation cephalosporin (BII); if cephalosporin-R or for *Pseudomonas*, can use ciprofloxacin PO 30 mg/kg/day div q12h (up to 40 mg/kg/day)³²⁰ (BIII); for 7–14 days total (depending on response to therapy). See Chapter 12.

Comments

For mild to moderate infection, shorter courses and oral therapy are likely to be as effective as IV/IM therapy for a standard duration of 10–14 days, for susceptible strains, down to 3 mo of age. 324,326 In children, it is often difficult to distinguish between upper tract and lower tract infections. If bacteremia documented and infant <2-3 mo. rule out meningitis and treat 14 days IV + PO (AIII). Aminoglycosides at any dose are more nephrotoxic than beta-lactams but represent effective therapy (AI). Once-daily dosing of gentamicin is preferred to tid.323 The duration of treatment is a function of the extent of infection (with potential renal abscess formation in severe pyelonephritis); no prospective data collection has addressed the extent of infection at the time of diagnosis. Early renal cellulitis should respond to 5–7 days of therapy; renal abscesses may take 14+ days to resolve.324

Recurrent UTI, prophylaxis^{317,318,328–331}

Only for those with grade III–V reflux or with recurrent febrile UTI: TMP/SMX 2 mg/kg/dose of TMP PO qd OR nitrofurantoin 1–2 mg/kg PO qd at bedtime; more rapid resistance may develop by using beta-lactams (BII).

Prophylaxis is not recommended for patients with grade I–II reflux and no evidence of renal damage (although the RIVUR study³³⁰ included these children, and they may also benefit), but early treatment of new infection is recommended for these children. Resistance eventually develops to every antibiotic; follow resistance patterns for each patient. The use of periodic urine cultures is controversial, as there are no comparative data to guide management of asymptomatic bacteriuria in a child at high risk for recurrent UTI.

Although one can prevent febrile UTIs, it is not clear

that one can prevent renal scar formation.332

Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Actinomycosis 333-335	Penicillin G 250,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h, OR ampicillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h until improved (often up to 6 wk for extensive infection); then long-term convalescent therapy with penicillin V 100 mg/kg/ day (up to 4 g/day) PO for 6–12 mo (AII)	Surgery with debridement as indicated. Alternatives: amoxicillin, doxycycline for children >7 y clarithromycin, erythromycin; ceftriaxone IM/IV, or meropenem IV.
Anaplasmosis ^{336,337} (human granulocytotropic anaplasmosis, Anaplasma phagocytophilum)	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day IV, PO (max 200 mg/day) div bid for 7–10 days (regardless of age) (AllI)	No contraindication for doxycycline treatment in ANY age-group. For mild disease, consider rifampin 20 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 7–10 days (BIII).
Anthrax, sepsis/pneumonia, community vs bioterror exposure (inhalation, cutaneous, Gl, meningoencephalitis) ¹⁷	For community-associated anthrax infection, amoxicillin 75 mg/kg/day div q8h OR doxycycline for children >7 y For bioterror-associated exposure (regardless of age): ciprofloxacin 20–30 mg/kg/day IV div q12h, OR levofloxacin 16 mg/kg/day IV div q12h not to exceed 250 mg/dose (Alll); OR doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day PO (max 200 mg/day) div bid (regardless of age)	For invasive infection after bioterror exposure, 2 or 3 antibiotics may be required. ¹⁷ For oral step-down therapy, can use oral ciprofloxacin or doxycycline; if susceptible, can use penicillin, amoxicillin, or clindamycin. May require long-term postexposure prophylaxis after bioterror event.
Appendicitis (See Appendicitis, be	owel-associated, in Table 1H under Intra-abdominal infection	on.)
Brucellosis ^{338,339}	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day PO (max 200 mg/day) div bid (for children >7 y) AND rifampin (15–20 mg/kg/day div q12h) (BIII); OR for children <8 y: TMP/SMX 10 mg/kg/day of TMP IV, PO div q12h AND rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/day div q12h (BIII); for at least 6 wk	Combination therapy with rifampin will decrease the risk of relapse. For more serious infections, ADD gentamicin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day IV, IM div q8h for the first 1–2 wk of therapy to further decrease risk of relapse (BIII), particularly for endocarditis, osteomyelitis, or meningitis. Prolonged treatment for 4–6 mo and surgical debridement may be necessary for deep infections (AIII).

L. MISCELLANEOUS SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Cat-scratch disease (Bartonella henselae) ³⁴⁰⁻³⁴²	Supportive care for adenopathy (I&D of infected lymph node); azithromycin 12 mg/kg/day PO qd for 5 days shortens the duration of adenopathy (AIII). No prospective data exist for invasive CSD: gentamicin (for 14 days) AND TMP/SMX AND rifampin for hepatosplenic disease and osteomyelitis (AIII). For CNS infection, use ceftriaxone AND gentamicin \pm TMP/SMX (AIII).	This dosage of azithromycin has been documented to be safe and effective for strep pharyngitis and may offer greater deep tissue exposure than the dosage studied by Bass et al ⁸ and used for otitis media. Alternatives: ciprofloxacin, doxycycline.
Chickenpox/shingles (varicellazoster virus)	See Varicella-zoster virus in Chapter 7, Table 7C.	
COVID-19 (acute SARS-CoV-2 infection)	See Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Chapter 7, Table 7C.	

COVID-19 MIS-C/PIMS-TS
(postinfection
inflammatory syndrome).
Please consult with a
pediatric rheumatologist/
immunologist for current
recommendations.

Based on the CDC case definition, a SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis must *first* be made (see Comments). Recommendations from the American College of Rheumatology (see Comments); grading based on consensus, as low (L), moderate (M), and high (H). High-dose IVIG (typically 1–2 g/kg) may be considered (M/H).

Low- to moderate-dose glucocorticoids may be considered (M/H).

Anakinra may be considered for treatment of MIS-C refractory to IVIG and glucocorticoids or in patients with contraindications to these treatments (M/H). Consultation with a pediatric rheumatologist is advised

Low-dose aspirin (3–5 mg/kg/day; max 81 mg/day) should be used (M).

Patients with MIS-C and documented thrombosis or an ejection fraction <35% should receive therapeutic anticoagulation with enoxaparin.

Treatment recommendations from the "American College of Rheumatology Clinical Guidance for Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Associated With SARS-CoV-2 and Hyperinflammation in Pediatric COVID-19: Version 1" (https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/art.41454; published July 23, 2020; accessed September 21, 2022)

CDC case definition: an individual aged <21 y presenting with fever, laboratory evidence of inflammation, and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization, with multisystem (>2) organ involvement (cardiac, renal, respiratory, hematologic, Gl, dermatologic, or neurologic); AND no alternative plausible diagnoses; AND positive for current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection by RT-PCR, serology, or antigen test; or COVID-19 exposure within the 4 wk before the onset of symptoms (www.cdc. gov/mis; reviewed June 25, 2021; accessed September 21, 2022)

Ehrlichiosis (human monocytic ehrlichiosis, caused by Ehrlichia chaffeensis, and Ehrlichia ewingii) 336,337,343,344 Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day IV, PO div bid (max 100 mg/dose) for 7–10 days (regardless of age) (AlII)

For mild disease, consider rifampin 20 mg/kg/day PO div bid (max 300 mg/dose) for 7–10 days (BIII).

L. MISCELLANEOUS SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Febrile, neutropenic patient (empiric therapy for invasive infection: <i>Pseudomonas</i> , enteric gram-negative bacilli, staphylococci, streptococci, yeast, fungi) ³⁴⁵⁻³⁴⁸	Cefepime 150 mg/kg/day div q8h (AI); OR meropenem 60 mg/kg/day div q8h (AII); OR pip/tazo (300 mg/kg/day pip component div q8h for infants/children >9 mo; 240 mg/kg/day div q8h for infants 2–9 mo), OR ceftazidime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h AND tobramycin 6 mg/kg/day IV g8h (AII). ADD vancomycin 40 mg/kg/day IV div q8h if MRSA or coagulation-negative staph infection suspected (eg, central catheter infection) (AIII). ADD metronidazole to ceftazidime or cefepime if colitis, head/neck space infection, or other deep anaerobic infection suspected (AIII).	Alternatives: other anti-Pseudomonas beta-lactams (imipenem) AND antistaphylococcal antibiotics, including ceftaroline for MRSA. If no response in 3–4 days and no alternative etiology demonstrated, begin additional empiric therapy with antifungals (BII) ^{345,347} ; dosages and formulations outlined in Chapter 5. Increasingly resistant pathogens (ESBL Escherichia coli and KPC Klebsiella) will require alternative empiric therapy if MDR organisms are colonizing the patient or present on the child's hospital unit. For low-risk patients with negative cultures and close follow-up, alternative management strategies have been explored: oral therapy with amox/clav and ciprofloxacin may be used, with cautious discontinuation of antibiotics (even in those without marrow recovery). 345,349
HIV infection	See Chapter 7.	
Infant botulism ³⁵⁰	Botulism immune globulin for infants (BabyBIG) 50 mg/kg IV for 1 dose (AI); BabyBIG can be obtained from the California Department of Public Health at www.infantbotulism.org, through your state health department.	See www.infantbotulism.org for information for physicians and parents. Website organized by the California Department of Public Health (accessed September 21, 2022). Aminoglycosides should be avoided because they potentiate the neuromuscular effect of botulinum toxin.

Kawasaki syndrome ³⁵¹⁻³⁵⁴	No antibiotics; IVIG 2 g/kg as single dose (AI); may need to repeat dose in up to 15% of children for persisting fever that lasts 24 h after completion of the IVIG infusion (AII). Corticosteroids as primary adjunctive therapy in the acute phase of Kawasaki syndrome can be associated with reduced coronary artery abnormalities, reduced inflammatory markers, and shorter duration of hospital stay when compared to no corticosteroids. ³³² Consult an ID physician or a pediatric cardiologist. Adjunctive therapy with corticosteroids for those at high risk for the development of aneurysms. ^{352,353}	Aspirin 80–100 mg/kg/day div qid in acute febrile phase; once afebrile for 24–48 h, aspirin may no longer add benefit. Role of corticosteroids, infliximab, etanercept, calcineurin inhibitors, and antithrombotic therapy, as well as methotrexate, for IVIGresistant Kawasaki syndrome is under investigation, and some interventions are likely to improve outcome in severe cases, 353,354 Infliximab may decrease acute symptoms in patients whose IVIG fails to respond but may not decrease the risk for coronary artery abnormalities. 355 Similar findings were noted with another tumor necrosis factor inhibitor, etanercept, in the overall population, although subsets of children within the study may have benefited. 354,356
Leprosy (Hansen disease) ³⁵⁷	Dapsone 1 mg/kg/day PO qd AND rifampin 10 mg/kg/day PO qd; ADD (for multibacillary disease) clofazimine 1 mg/kg/day PO qd; for 12 mo for paucibacillary disease; for 24 mo for multibacillary disease (All).	Consult Health Resources and Services Administration National Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) Program at www.hrsa.gov/hansens- disease (reviewed June 2021; accessed September 21, 2022) for advice about treatment and free antibiotics: 800/642-2477.
Leptospirosis ^{358,359}	Penicillin G 250,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h, OR ceftriaxone 50 mg/kg/day IV, IM q24h; for 7 days (BII) For mild disease in all age-groups, doxycycline (>7 y) 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 7–10 days (BII)	Alternative: for those with mild disease, intolerant of doxycycline, azithromycin 20 mg/kg on day 1, 10 mg/kg on days 2 and 3, or amoxicillin
Lyme disease (Borrelia burgdorferi) ^{360,361}	Neurologic evaluation, including LP, if there is clinical suspicion of CNS involvement	

L. MISCELLANEOUS SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)		
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
 Early localized disease (erythema migrans, single or multiple) (any age) 	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 10 days for all ages (All) OR amoxicillin 50 mg/ kg/day (max 1.5 g/day) PO div tid for 14 days (All)	Alternative: cefuroxime, 30 mg/kg/day (max 1,000 mg/day) PO, in 2 div doses for 14 days OR azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day PO qd for 7 days
– Arthritis (no CNS disease)	Oral therapy as outlined in early localized disease but for 28 days (AlII)	Persistent or recurrent joint swelling after treatment: repeat a 4-wk course of oral antibiotics or give ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg IV q24h for 14–28 days. For persisting arthritis after 2 defined antibiotic treatment courses, use symptomatic therapy.
– Isolated facial (Bell) palsy	Doxycycline as outlined in early localized disease, for 14 days (AIII); efficacy of amoxicillin unknown	LP is not routinely required unless CNS symptoms develop. Treatment to prevent late sequelae; will not provide a quick response for palsy.
- Carditis	Oral therapy as outlined in early localized disease, for 14 days (range 14–21 days) OR ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg IV q24h for 14 days (range 14–21 days) (AIII)	
– Neuroborreliosis	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 14–21 days (All) OR ceftriaxone 50–75 mg/kg IV q24h OR penicillin G 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4h; for 14–21 days (AllI)	
Melioidosis (Burkholderia pseudomallei) ^{362,363}	Acute sepsis: meropenem 75 mg/kg/day div q8h; OR ceftazidime 150 mg/kg/day IV div q8h; followed by TMP/SMX (10 mg/kg/day of TMP) PO div bid for 3–6 mo	Alternative convalescent therapy: amox/clav (90 mg/kg/day of amox div tid, not bid) for children ≤7 y, or doxycycline for children >7 y; for 20 wk (All)

Mycobacteria, nontuberculous	9,11,12,193	
– Adenitis in normal host (See Adenitis entries in Table 1A.)	Excision usually curative (BII); azithromycin PO OR clarithromycin PO for 6–12 wk (with or without rifampin or ethambutol) if susceptible (BII)	Antibiotic susceptibility patterns are quite variable; cultures should guide therapy; medical therapy is 60%–70% effective. Data suggest that toxicity of antimicrobials may not be worth the small clinical benefit. For more resistant organisms, other antibiotics may be active, including TMP/SMX, fluoroquinolones, doxycycline, or, for parenteral therapy, amikacin, meropenem, or cefoxitin. See Chapter 3 for specific mycobacterial pathogens.
 Pneumonia or disseminated infection in compromised hosts (HIV, interferon-y receptor deficiency, CF)^{11,193,364,365} 	The more severe the infection, the more aggressive the treatment: usually treated with 3 or 4 active drugs (eg, clarithromycin OR azithromycin, AND ethambutol, AND amikacin, cefoxitin, or meropenem). Also test for ciprofloxacin, TMP/SMX, rifampin, linezolid, clofazimine, and doxycycline (BII).	Outcomes particularly poor for <i>Mycobacterium abscessus</i> . ^{365,366} See Chapter 18 for dosages; cultures are essential, as the susceptibility patterns of nontuberculous mycobacteria are varied.
Nocardiosis (Nocardia asteroides and Nocardia brasiliensis) ^{367,268}	TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day of TMP div bid or sulfisoxazole 120–150 mg/kg/day PO div qid for ≥6–12 wk. For severe infection, particularly in immunocompromised hosts, IN ADDITION to TMP/SMX, use amikacin 15–20 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h OR imipenem or meropenem (not ertapenem) (AIII). For susceptible strains, ceftriaxone.	Wide spectrum of disease, from skin lesions to brain abscess. Surgery when indicated. Alternatives: doxycycline (for children >7 y), amox/clav, or linezolid. Immunocompromised children may require months of therapy.
Plague (Yersinia pestis) ³⁶⁹⁻³⁷¹	Gentamicin 7.5 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (AII) OR doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid OR ciprofloxacin 30 mg/kg/day PO div bid. Gentamicin is poorly active in abscesses; consider alternatives for bubonic plague.	A complete listing of treatment options and doses for children is provided on the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/plague/healthcare/clinicians.html; reviewed February 25, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022).

L. MISCELLANEOUS SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)					
Clinical Diagnosis	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments			
Q fever (Coxiella burnetii) ^{372,373}	Acute stage: doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 14 days (All) for children of any age. Endocarditis and chronic disease (ongoing symptoms for 6–12 mo): doxycycline for children >7 y AND hydroxychloroquine for 18–36 mo (Alll). Seek advice from pediatric ID specialist for children <7 y: may require TMP/SMX 8–10 mg/kg/day of TMP div q12h with doxycycline; OR levofloxacin with rifampin for 18 mo.	Follow doxycycline and hydroxychloroquine serum concentrations during endocarditis/chronic disease therapy. CNS: use fluoroquinolone (no prospective data) (BIII). Clarithromycin may be an alternative based on limited data (CIII).			
Rocky Mountain spotted fever (fever, petechial rash with centripetal spread; <i>Rickettsia</i> <i>rickettsii</i>) ^{374,375}	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg/day (max 200 mg/day) PO div bid for 7–10 days (AI) for children of any age	Start empiric therapy early.			
Tetanus (Clostridium tetani) ^{376,377}	Metronidazole 30 mg/kg/day IV, PO div q8h OR penicillin G 100,000 U/kg/day IV div q6h for 10–14 days; AND TIG 500 U IM (AII)	Wound debridement essential; may infiltrate wound with a portion of TIG dose, but not well studied; IVIG may provide antibody to toxin if TIG not available. Immunize with Td or Tdap. See Chapter 15 for prophylaxis recommendations.			

Toxic shock syndrome (toxin- producing strains of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> [including MRSA] or group A streptococcus) ^{3,6,7,378,379}	Empiric: oxacillin/nafcillin 150 mg/kg/day IV div q6h AND vancomycin 45 mg/kg/day IV div q8h (to cover MRSA) AND clindamycin 30–40 mg/kg/day div q8h for 7–10 days (AIII)	Clindamycin added for the initial 48–72 h of therapy to decrease toxin production. Ceftaroline is an option for MRSA treatment, particularly with renal injury from shock and vancomycin (BIII). IVIG may provide additional benefit by binding circulating toxin (CIII). For MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin AND clindamycin ± gentamicin. For CA-MRSA: ceftaroline (or vancomycin) AND clindamycin ± gentamicin. For group A streptococcus: penicillin G AND clindamycin.
Tularemia (Francisella tularensis) 181,380	Gentamicin 6.0–7.5 mg/kg/day IM, IV div q8h; for 10–14 days (All) Alternative for mild disease: ciprofloxacin (for 10 days)	Doxycycline as an alternative, although relapse rates may be higher than with other antibiotics. See www.cdc.gov/tularemia/clinicians/index.html (reviewed July 5, 2022; accessed September 21, 2022).

2. Antimicrobial Therapy for Neonates

NOTES

- Prospectively collected neonatal antimicrobial pharmacokinetic, safety, and efficacy data continue to become available, thanks in large part to federal legislation (especially the US Food and Drug Administration [FDA] Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 that mandates neonatal studies). In situations of inadequate data, suggested doses in this chapter are based on efficacy, safety, and pharmacological data from older children or adults. These may not account for the effect of developmental changes (effect of ontogeny) on drug metabolism and, hence, are not optimal, particularly for the unstable preterm neonate.¹
- For those drugs with an intramuscular (IM) route, an assumption is being made that
 the IM absorption in neonates is like that in older children or adults in whom that
 route has been better studied. The IM and intravenous (IV) routes are not equivalent.
 The IM route is reasonable as post-initial IV therapy in hemodynamically stable neonates with difficult-to-maintain IV access whose infection has been microbiologically
 controlled and who are clinically recovering.
 - Oral convalescent therapy for neonatal infections has not been well studied but may be used cautiously in non-life-threatening infections in adherent families with ready access to medical care.²³
- Substitution for cefotaxime in neonates and very young infants: Since 2018, US pharmaceutical companies have discontinued manufacturing and marketing cefotaxime. The FDA is allowing temporary importation of cefotaxime from a Canadian distributor (877/404-3338). For centers without cefotaxime readily available, we are recommending the following 3 agents as substitutes:
 - Cefepime has been available for more than 20 years, with many pediatric studies published, including neonatal ones. The original manufacturer did not seek approval from the FDA for neonates and infants younger than 2 months, so the FDA has not evaluated data or approved cefepime for neonates. Both cefepime and ceftazidime have activity against gram-negative bacilli, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and both would be expected to penetrate neonatal cerebrospinal fluid to treat meningitis. Cefepime is more active in vitro against enteric bacilli (*Escherichia coli*) and *Pseudomonas* than ceftazidime and is stable against ampC beta-lactamase often expressed by *Enterobacter, Serratia*, and *Citrobacter*. Cefepime is stable to many, but not all, extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs), although it is routinely reported as resistant to ESBL-containing gram-negative bacteria. Cefepime also has more in vitro activity than ceftazidime against some gram-positive bacteria such as group B strepto-cocci and methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus*. There are no meaningful differences in the safety profiles or therapeutic monitoring of cefepime and ceftazidime.⁴

Ceftazidime has been in clinical use longer than cefepime, also has evidence supporting use in neonates, and is approved by the FDA for neonates.

Ceftriaxone is FDA approved for neonates with the following 2 caveats:

- 1. Neonates with hyperbilirubinemia should not be treated with ceftriaxone due to the potential for ceftriaxone to displace albumin-bound bilirubin, creating more free bilirubin that can diffuse into the brain and increase the risk for kernicterus. Our recommendation is to avoid ceftriaxone in any at-risk neonates with hyperbilirubinemia, particularly those who are unstable or acidotic and particularly preterm neonates and infants up to a postmenstrual age of 41 weeks (gestational + chronologic age). Full-term neonates and infants with total bilirubin concentrations less than 10 mg/dL and falling (usually older than 1 week) may be considered for treatment, but no prospective data exist to support this bilirubin cutoff.
- 2. Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in neonates younger than 28 days if they require concomitant treatment with calcium-containing IV solutions. Neonates should not receive IV ceftriaxone while receiving IV calcium-containing products, including parenteral nutrition, by the same or different infusion lines. Fatal reactions with ceftriaxone-calcium precipitates in lungs and kidneys in neonates have occurred. There are no data on interactions between IV ceftriaxone and oral calcium-containing products or between IM ceftriaxone and IV or oral calcium-containing products.⁷
- Abbreviations: 3TC, lamivudine; ABLC, lipid complex amphotericin; ABR, auditory brainstem response; ALT, alanine transaminase; AmB, amphotericin B; AmB-D, amphotericin B deoxycholate; amox/clav, amoxicillin/clavulanate; AOM, acute otitis media; AUC, area under the curve; bid, twice daily; BPD, bronchopulmonary dysplasia; BSA, body surface area; CBC, complete blood cell count; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CLD, chronic lung disease; CMV, cytomegalovirus; CNS, central nervous system; CRO, carbapenem-resistant organism; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; CT, computed tomography; div, divided; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; ESBL, extended-spectrum beta-lactamase; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; GA, gestational age; GBS, group B streptococcus; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; GNR, gram-negative rods (bacilli); HSV, herpes simplex virus; IAI, intra-abdominal infection; ID, infectious disease; IM, intramuscular; IUGR, intrauterine growth restriction; IV, intravenous; IVIG, intravenous immune globulin; L-AmB, liposomal amphotericin B; max, maximum; MIC, minimal inhibitory concentration; MRSA, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus; MSSA, methicillinsusceptible S aureus; NDM, New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase; NEC, necrotizing enterocolitis; NICU, neonatal intensive care unit; NVP, nevirapine; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; pip/tazo, piperacillin/tazobactam; PMA, postmenstrual age; PNA,

postnatal age; PO, orally; q, every; RAL, raltegravir; RSV, respiratory syncytial virus; SCr, serum creatinine; spp, species; tab, tablet; tid, 3 times daily; TIG, tetanus immune globulin; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole; UCSF, University of California, San Francisco; UTI, urinary tract infection; VCUG, voiding cystourethrogram; VDRL, Venereal Disease Research Laboratories; VIM, Verona integron-encoded metallo-beta-lactamase; ZDV, zidovudine.

Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) <i>See tables</i> 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments
Conjunctivitis		
– Chlamydial ^{8–11}	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day PO for 1 day, then 5 mg/kg/day PO for 4 days (All), or erythromycin ethylsuccinate PO for 10–14 days (All)	Macrolides PO preferred to topical eye drops to prevent development of pneumonia; association of erythromycin and pyloric stenosis in young neonates. ¹² Alternative: 3-day course of higher-dose azithromycin at 10 mg/kg/dose once daily, although safety not well-defined in neonates (CIII). Oral sulfonamides may be used after the immediate neonatal period for infants who do not tolerate erythromycin.
– Gonococcal ^{13–17}	Ceftriaxone 25–50 mg/kg (max 250 mg) IV, IM once (AIII)	For adults, ceftriaxone in higher doses is now recommended as single-agent therapy. Ceftriaxone should be used for neonates with no risk for hyperbilirubinemia ⁵ or IV calcium-drug interactions. ⁷ Cefotaxime or cefepime is preferred for neonates with hyperbilirubinemia ⁵ and those with risk for calcium-drug interactions (see Notes). Saline irrigation of eyes. Evaluate for chlamydial infection if maternal chlamydial infection not excluded. All neonates born to mothers with untreated gonococcal infection (regardless of symptoms) require therapy. Cefixime and ciprofloxacin not recommended for maternal empiric therapy.
– Staphylococcus aureus ^{18–20}	Topical therapy is sufficient for mild <i>S aureus</i> cases (All), but oral or IV therapy may be considered for moderate to severe conjunctivitis. MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV or cefazolin (for non-CNS infections) IM, IV for 7 days. MRSA: vancomycin IV or ceftaroline IV.	Aminoglycoside ophthalmic drops or ointment, polymyxin/ trimethoprim drops No prospective data for MRSA conjunctivitis (BIII) Cephalexin PO for mild to moderate disease caused by MSSA Increased <i>S aureus</i> resistance with ciprofloxacin/levofloxacin ophthalmic formulations (AII)

– Pseudomonas aeruginosa ^{21–23}	Ceftazidime IM, IV AND tobramycin IM, IV for 7–10 days (alternatives: meropenem, cefepime, pip/tazo) (BIII)	Aminoglycoside or polymyxin B–containing ophthalmic drops or ointment as adjunctive therapy
– Other gram-negative	Aminoglycoside or polymyxin B–containing ophthalmic drops or ointment if mild (All) Systemic therapy if moderate to severe or unresponsive to topical therapy (AllI)	Duration of therapy dependent on clinical course and may be as short as 5 days if clinically resolved
Cytomegalovirus		
– Congenital ^{24–28}	For moderately to severely symptomatic neonates with congenital CMV disease: oral valganciclovir at 16 mg/kg/dose bid for 6 mo ²⁷ (Al); IV ganciclovir at 6 mg/kg/dose q12h can be used for some of or all the first 6 wk of therapy if oral therapy not advised but provides no added benefit over oral valganciclovir (All). ²⁹ An "induction period" starting with IV ganciclovir is not recommended if oral valganciclovir can be tolerated.	Benefit for hearing loss and neurodevelopmental outcomes (AI). Treatment recommended for neonates with moderate to severe symptomatic congenital CMV disease, with or without CNS involvement. If used, treatment of congenital CMV must start within the first month after birth. Treatment is not routinely recommended for "mildly symptomatic" neonates congenitally infected with CMV (eg, only 1 or perhaps 2 manifestations of congenital CMV infection, which are mild in scope [eg, isolated IUGR, mild hepatomegaly] or transient and mild in nature [eg, a single platelet count of 80,000 µL or an ALT of 130 U/L, with these numbers serving only as examples]), as the risks of treatment may not be balanced by benefits in mild disease. ²⁸ This includes neonates who are asymptomatic except for sensorineural hearing loss. Treatment for asymptomatic neonates congenitally infected with CMV should not be given. Neutropenia develops in 20% (oral valganciclovir) to 68% (IV ganciclovir) of neonates receiving long-term therapy (responds to G-CSF or temporary discontinuation of therapy).

		Antimicropial Therapy for Neonates
A. RECOMMENDED T	HERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL CON	DITIONS (continued)
Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) <i>See tables</i> 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments
– Perinatally or postnatally acquired ²⁶	Ganciclovir 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h for 14–21 days (AIII)	Antiviral treatment has not been studied in this population but can be considered in patients with acute, severe visceral (end-organ) disease, such as pneumonitis, hepatitis, encephalitis, NEC, or persistent thrombocytopenia. If such patients are treated with parenteral ganciclovir, a reasonable approach is to treat for 2 wk and then reassess responsiveness to therapy. If clinical and laboratory data suggest benefit of treatment, an additional 1 wk of parenteral ganciclovir can be considered if symptoms and signs have not fully resolved. Oral valganciclovir is not recommended in these more severe disease manifestations. Observe for possible relapse after completion of therapy (AIII).
Fungal infections (See	also Chapter 5.)	
– Candidiasis ^{30–39}	Treatment AmB-D (1 mg/kg/day) is recommended therapy (All). Fluconazole (25 mg/kg on day 1, then	Neonates have high risk for urinary tract and CNS infections, problematic for echinocandins with poor penetration at those sites; therefore, AmB-D is preferred, followed by fluconazole. Echinocandins are discouraged, despite their fungicidal activity.

Fluconazole (25 mg/kg on day 1, then 12 mg/kg q24h) is an alternative if patient has not been on fluconazole prophylaxis (All).⁴⁰

For treatment of neonates and young infants (<120 days) receiving ECMO, fluconazole loading dose is 35 mg/kg on day 1, then 12 mg/kg q24h (BII).⁴¹

Lipid formulation AmB is an alternative but carries a theoretical risk of decreasing urinary tract penetration, compared with AmB-D (CIII).⁴²

Infants with invasive candidiasis should be evaluated for other sites of infection: CSF analysis, echocardiogram, abdominal ultrasound to include bladder, retinal eye examination (AlII).

CT or ultrasound imaging of genitourinary tract, liver, and spleen should be performed if blood culture results are persistently positive (AllI).

Meningoencephalitis in the neonate occurs at a higher rate than in older children/adults.

Central venous catheter removal strongly recommended. Infected CNS devices, including ventriculostomy drains and shunts, should be removed, if possible.

Length of therapy dependent on disease (BIII), usually 2 wk after all clearance.

Duration of therapy for candidemia without obvious metastatic complications is for 2 wk after documented clearance and resolution of symptoms (therefore, generally 3 wk total).

Prophylaxis

In nurseries with high rates of candidiasis (>10%),⁴³ IV or oral fluconazole prophylaxis (AI) (3–6 mg/kg twice weekly for 6 wk) in high-risk neonates (birth weight <1,000 g) is recommended. Oral nystatin, 100,000 U tid for 6 wk, is an alternative to fluconazole in neonates with birth weights <1,500 g if availability or resistance precludes fluconazole use (CII). Prophylaxis of neonates and children receiving ECMO: fluconazole 12 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 6 mg/kg/day (BII).

Antifungal susceptibility testing is suggested with persistent disease. Candida krusei is inherently resistant to fluconazole; Candida parapsilosis may be less susceptible to echinocandins; there is increasing resistance of Candida glabrata to fluconazole and echinocandins

No proven benefit for combination antifungal therapy in candidiasis.

Change from AmB or fluconazole to echinocandin if cultures persistently positive (BIII) despite source control.

Although fluconazole prophylavis has been shown to reduce

Although fluconazole prophylaxis has been shown to reduce colonization, it has not reduced mortality.³³

Echinocandins should be used with caution and generally limited to salvage therapy or situations in which resistance or toxicity precludes use of AmB-D or fluconazole (CIII).

Role of flucytosine in neonates with meningitis is questionable and not routinely recommended due to toxicity concerns. The addition of flucytosine (100 mg/kg/day div q6h) may be considered as salvage therapy in patients who have not had a clinical response to initial AmB therapy, but adverse effects are frequent (CIII).

Serum flucytosine concentrations should be obtained after 3–5 days to achieve a 2-h post-dose peak <100 mcg/mL (ideally 30–80 mcg/mL) to prevent neutropenia.

See Skin and soft tissues later in this table for management of congenital cutaneous candidiasis.

A. RECOMMENDED THERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL CONDITIONS (continued)

Condition

 Aspergillosis (usually cutaneous infection with systemic dissemination)27,44-46

Therapy (evidence grade) See tables 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.

Voriconazole dosing never studied in neonates but likely initial dosing same or higher as pediatric ≥2 v: 18 mg/kg/day IV div g12h for a loading dose on the first day, then 16 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a maintenance dose. Continued dosing is guided by monitoring of trough serum concentrations (AII).

When stable, may switch from voriconazole IV to voriconazole PO 18 mg/kg/day div bid (All). Unlike in adults, oral bioavailability in children is about only 60%. Oral bioavailability in neonates has never been studied. Trough monitoring is crucial after switch.26

Alternatives for primary therapy when voriconazole cannot be administered: L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day (All), ABLC is another alternative. Echinocandin primary monotherapy should not be used for treating invasive aspergillosis (CII). AmB-D should be used only in resource-limited settings in which no alternative agent is available (All).

Comments

Aggressive antifungal therapy and early debridement of skin lesions. which are a common manifestation in neonatal aspergillosis (AIII).

Voriconazole is preferred primary antifungal therapy for all clinical forms of aspergillosis (AI). Early initiation of therapy in patients with strong suspicion of disease is important while a diagnostic evaluation is conducted.

Therapeutic voriconazole trough serum concentrations of 2–5 mg/L are important for success. It is critical to monitor trough concentrations to guide therapy due to high inter-patient variability.²⁸ Low voriconazole concentrations are a leading cause of clinical failure.

Neonatal and infant voriconazole dosing is not well-defined, but doses required to achieve therapeutic troughs are generally higher than in children >2 v (AIII).47

Limited experience with posaconazole and no experience with isavuconazole in neonates.48

Total treatment course is for a minimum of 6-12 wk, largely dependent on the degree and duration of immunosuppression and evidence of disease improvement.

Salvage antifungal therapy options after failed primary therapy include a change of antifungal class (using L-AmB or an echinocandin), a switch to posaconazole (trough concentrations >1 mcg/mL [see Chapter 18 for pediatric dosing]), or use of combination antifungal therapy.

Combination therapy with voriconazole + an echinocandin may be considered in select patients.

In vitro data suggest some synergy with 2 (but not 3) drug combinations: an azole + an echinocandin is the most well studied. If combination therapy is used, this is likely best done initially when voriconazole trough concentrations may not vet be therapeutic.

Routine susceptibility testing is not recommended but is suggested
for patients who are suspected of having an azole-resistant isolate
or who are unresponsive to therapy.

Azole-resistant Aspergillus fumigatus is increasing. If local epidemiology suggests >10% azole resistance, initial empiric therapy should be voriconazole + echinocandin OR + L-AmB, and subsequent therapy guided based on antifungal susceptibilities.⁴⁹ Micafungin likely has equal efficacy to caspofungin against aspergillosis.³¹

Gastrointestinal infections

– NEC or peritonitis secondary to bowel rupture ^{50–54}	Ampicillin IV AND gentamicin AND metronidazole IV for ≥10 days (All). Clindamycin may be used in place of metronidazole (All). Alternatives: meropenem (Al); pip/tazo ± gentamicin (All). ADD fluconazole if known to have gastrointestinal colonization with susceptible Candida spp (BIII).	Surgical drainage (All). Definitive antibiotic therapy based on blood-culture results (aerobic, anaerobic, and fungal); meropenem for ESBL-positive GNR or cefepime for ampC-positive (inducible cephalosporinase) GNR. Vancomycin rather than ampicillin if MRSA prevalent. <i>Bacteroides</i> colonization may occur as early as the first week after birth (AllI). Duration of therapy dependent on clinical response and risk for persisting IAI abscess (AlII). Probiotics may prevent NEC in preterm neonates, but the optimal strain(s), dose, duration, safety, and target subgroups are not fully known. 55,56
– <i>Salmonella</i> (non-Typhi and Typhi) ⁵⁷	Ampicillin IM, IV (if susceptible) OR ceftriaxone or cefepime IM, IV for 7–10 days (AII)	Observe for focal complications (eg, meningitis, arthritis) (AIII). TMP/ SMX for focal gastrointestinal infection and low risk for unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia due to interaction between sulfa and bilirubin-albumin binding.

	Theyeny (evidence ande) Coe tables	
Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) See tables 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments
Herpes simplex infection	on	
– CNS and disseminated disease ⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰	Acyclovir 60 mg/kg/day div q8h IV for 21 days (AII). ALT may help identify early disseminated infection.	If CNS involvement, perform CSF HSV PCR near end of 21 days of therapy and continue IV acyclovir until PCR negative. Monitor early in treatment of acute kidney injury, particularly in sicker infants and those receiving additional nephrotoxins. ⁶¹
– Skin, eye, or mouth disease ^{58–60}	Acyclovir 60 mg/kg/day div q8h IV for 14 days (AII). Obtain CSF PCR for HSV to assess for CNS infection.	Infuse over 1 h and maintain adequate infant hydration to decrease risk for crystal nephropathy. Involve ophthalmologist when acute ocular HSV disease suspected. If present, ADD topical 1% trifluridine or 0.15% ganciclovir ophthalmic gel (All) (see Chapter 18 for pediatric dosing). Acyclovir PO (300 mg/m²/dose tid) suppression for 6 mo recommended following parenteral therapy (Al). ⁶² Observe for possible relapse after completion of therapy (Bl). ⁶³ Monitor for neutropenia. Different IV acyclovir dosages have been modeled, ⁶⁴ but no clinical data are available in humans to support them. Use foscarnet for acyclovir-resistant disease (see Chapter 18 for pediatric dosing).

HIV prophylaxis following perinatal exposure 65,66

- Prophylaxis following low-risk exposure (mother who had HIV infection before pregnancy, received antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy, and sustained viral suppression within 4 wk of delivery)
- ZDV for the first 4 wk of age (AI). GA ≥35 wk: ZDV 8 mg/kg/day PO div q12h OR 6 mg/kg/day IV div g8h.
- GA 30–34 wk: ZDV 4 mg/kg/day PO (OR 3 mg/kg/day IV) div q12h. Increase at 2 wk of age to 6 mg/kg/day PO (OR 4.5 mg/kg/ day IV) div q12h.
- GA ≤29 wk: ZDV 4 mg/kg/day PO (OR 3 mg/kg/day IV) div q12h. Increase at 4 wk of age to 6 mg/kg/day PO (OR 4.5 mg/kg/day IV) div q12h.
- The preventive ZDV doses listed for neonates are also treatment doses for infants with diagnosed HIV infection.
- Treatment of HIV-infected neonates should be considered only with expert consultation.

- For detailed information: https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/guidelines/perinatal/whats-new-guidelines (accessed September 26, 2022).
- UCSF Clinician Consultation Center (888/448-8765) provides free clinical consultation.
- Start prevention therapy as soon after delivery as possible but by 6–8 h of age for best effectiveness (All).

 Monitor CBC at birth and 4 wk (All).
- Perform HIV-1 DNA PCR or RNA assays at 14–21 days, 1–2 mo, and 4–6 mo (AI).
- Initiate TMP/SMX prophylaxis for pneumocystis pneumonia at 6 wk of age if HIV infection not yet excluded (AII). TMP/SMX dosing is 2.5–5 mg/kg/dose of TMP component PO q12h.

A. RECOMMENDED THERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL CONDITIONS (continued)

Condition

- Prophylaxis following higher-risk perinatal exposure (mother who had primary HIV infection during pregnancy OR who was not treated before delivery OR who was treated but did not achieve viral suppression within 4 wk of delivery, especially if delivery was vaginal)

Therapy (evidence grade) See tables 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.

Presumptive HIV treatment (BII): ZDV and 3TC for 6 wk

AND FITHER NVP or RAL

ZDV dosing as above: in infants >35 wk of gestation, the dosage should be increased is >4 wk of age.

Birth-4 wk: 4 mg/kg/day PO div g12h. >4 wk: 8 mg/kg/day PO div g12h.

NVP dosina:

>37 wk of gestation at birth: Birth-4 wk: NVP 12 mg/kg/day PO div g12h.

g12h; make this dose increase only for infants with confirmed HIV infection. ≥34-<37 wk of gestation at birth: Birth-1 wk: NVP 8 mg/kg/day PO div g12h. 1-4 wk: NVP 12 mg/kg/day PO div g12h. >4 wk: NVP 400 mg/m²/day of BSA PO div g12h; make this dose increase only for

>4 wk: NVP 400 mg/m²/day of BSA PO div

RAL dosina:

≥37 wk of gestation at birth and ≥2,000 a in weight:

Birth-1 wk: once-daily dosing at about 1.5 mg/kg/dose.

infants with confirmed HIV infection.

2-<3 kg: 0.4 mL (4 mg) once daily.

3-<4 kg: 0.5 mL (5 mg) once daily.

4-<5 kg: 0.7 mL (7 mg) once daily.

Comments

Delivery management of women with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral therapy and have viral loads between 20 and 999 copies/mL varies. Data do not show a clear benefit to IV ZDV and cesarean delivery for these women. Decisions about the addition of NVP, 3TC, or RAL for infants born to these mothers should be made in consultation with a pediatric ID specialist. to 12 mg/kg/day PO div g12 once the infant NVP dosing and safety not established for infants whose birth weight <1.500 a.

3TC dosing (≥**32 wk of gestation at birth):** The HIV Guidelines Committee recommends using "treatment" antiretroviral regimens for high-risk, exposed neonates in an attempt to preclude infection or to increase the chance of HIV remission or cure. This was initially stimulated by the experience of a baby from Mississippi: high-risk neonate treated within the first 2 days after birth with subsequent infection documentation; off therapy at 18 mo of age without evidence of circulating virus until 4 y of age, at which point HIV became detectable.⁶⁷ Clinical trials are

> When empiric treatment is used for high-risk infants and HIV infection is subsequently excluded, NVP, 3TC, and/or RAL can be discontinued and 7DV can be continued for 6 wk total.

If HIV infection is confirmed, see Chapter 7 for treatment recommendations.

ongoing to study these issues further.

Consider consultation with a pediatric ID specialist, especially when considering use of RAL (CIII).

If the mother has taken RAL within 2-24 h before delivery, the neonate's first dose of RAL should be delayed until 24-48 h after birth: other antiretroviral drugs should be started as soon as possible.

- 2-<3 kg: 0.8 mL (8 mg) bid.
- 3-<4 kg: 1 mL (10 mg) bid.
- 4-<5 kg: 1.5 mL (15 mg) bid.
- 4–6 wk: bid dosing at about 6 mg/kg/dose.
 - 3-<4 kg: 2.5 mL (25 mg) bid.
 - 4-<6 kg: 3 mL (30 mg) bid.
 - 6-<8 kg: 4 mL (40 mg) bid.

Influenza	Δ	and F	l viri	ISES ⁶⁸⁻⁷¹

Treatment	Oseltamivir: Preterm, <38 wk of PMA: 1 mg/kg/dose PO bid Preterm, 38–40 wk of PMA: 1.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid Preterm, >40 wk of PMA: 3 mg/kg/dose PO bid ⁶⁹ ,72	Oseltamivir chemoprophylaxis is not recommended for infants <3 mo unless the situation is judged critical because of limited safety and efficacy data in this age-group. Parenteral peramivir is approved in the United States for use in children ≥2 y; no pharmacokinetic or safety data exist in neonates. ⁷³ Oral baloxavir is approved in the United States for use in persons ≥12 y; no pharmacokinetic or safety data exist in neonates. ⁷⁴
Omphalitis and funisiti	S	
 Empiric therapy for omphalitis and necrotizing funisitis; direct therapy against coliform bacilli, S aureus (consider MRSA), and anaerobes⁷⁵⁻⁷⁷ 	Cefepime OR gentamicin, AND clindamycin for ≥10 days (AII)	Appropriate wound management for infected cord and necrotic tissue (AIII). Need to culture to direct therapy. Alternatives for coliform coverage if resistance likely: cefepime, meropenem. For suspect MRSA: ADD ceftaroline or vancomycin. Alternative for combined MSSA and anaerobic coverage: pip/tazo.
– Group A or B streptococcus ⁷⁸	Penicillin G IV for ≥7–14 days (shorter course for superficial funisitis without invasive infection) (All)	Group A streptococcus usually causes "wet cord" without pus and with minimal erythema; single dose of penicillin benzathine IM adequate. Consultation with pediatric ID specialist recommended for necrotizing fasciitis (AII).

A. RECOMMENDED 1	HERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL CON	DITIONS (continued)
Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) See tables 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments
– S aureus ⁷⁷	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV, IM for ≥5–7 days (shorter course for superficial funisitis without invasive infection) (AIII) MRSA: vancomycin (AIII) or ceftaroline (BII)	Assess for bacteremia and other focus of infection. Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) (BIII) or linezolid (CIII).
– Clostridium spp ⁷⁹	Clindamycin OR penicillin G IV for ≥10 days, with additional agents based on culture results (AII)	Crepitation and rapidly spreading cellulitis around umbilicus Mixed infection with other gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria common
Duration of therapy deper- osteomyelitis 3 wk and	ungal if NICU) of bone or joint fluid before antibi	of erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C-reactive protein; minimum for
– Empiric therapy	Nafcillin/oxacillin IV (or vancomycin or ceftaroline if MRSA is a concern) AND cefepime OR gentamicin IV, IM (AIII)	Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) or linezolid
– Coliform bacteria (eg, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella spp, Enterobacter spp)	For <i>E coli</i> and <i>Klebsiella</i> : cefepime OR ceftazidime OR ampicillin (if susceptible) (AllI) For <i>Enterobacter, Serratia</i> , or <i>Citrobacter</i> : cefepime OR ceftazidime AND gentamicin IV, IM (AlII)	Meropenem for ESBL-producing coliforms (AllI). Gentamicin if abscesses can be drained.
– Gonococcal arthritis and tenosynovitis ^{14–17}	Ceftriaxone IV, IM AND azithromycin 10 mg/ kg PO q24h for 5 days (AllI)	Ceftriaxone no longer recommended as single-agent therapy due to increasing cephalosporin resistance; therefore, addition of azithromycin recommended (no data in neonates; azithromycin dose is that recommended for pertussis). Cefotaxime or cefepime is preferred for neonates with hyperbilirubinemia and those with risk for calcium-drug interactions (see Notes).

– S aureus	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV (AlI) MRSA: vancomycin IV (AlII) OR ceftaroline IV (BII)	Alternative for MSSA: cefazolin (AllI). Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) (BIII) or linezolid (CIII). Addition of rifampin if persistently positive cultures.
– Group B streptococcus	Ampicillin or penicillin G IV (AII)	
– Haemophilus influenzae	Ampicillin IV OR cefepime/ceftazidime IV, IM if ampicillin resistant	Start with IV therapy and switch to oral therapy when clinically stable. Amox/clav PO OR amoxicillin PO if susceptible (AllI).
Otitis media ⁸³ No controlled treatment tria	als in neonates; if no response, obtain middle ea	ar fluid for culture.
– Empiric therapy ⁸⁴	Cefepime/ceftazidime OR oxacillin/nafcillin AND gentamicin	Start with IV therapy and switch to amox/clav PO when clinically stable (AlII).
- E coli (therapy for other coliforms based on susceptibility testing)	Cefepime/ceftazidime	Start with IV therapy and switch to oral therapy when clinically stable. In addition to pneumococcus and <i>Haemophilus</i> , coliforms and <i>S aureus</i> may also cause AOM in neonates (AIII). For ESBL-producing strains, use meropenem (AII). Amox/clav if susceptible (AIII).
– S aureus	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV (AII) MRSA: vancomycin IV (AIII) OR ceftaroline IV (BII)	Start with IV therapy and switch to oral therapy when clinically stable. MSSA: cephalexin PO for 10 days or cloxacillin PO (AIII). Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) (BIII) or linezolid (CIII).
– Group A or B streptococcus	Penicillin G or ampicillin IV, IM	Start with IV therapy and switch to oral therapy when clinically stable. Amoxicillin 30–40 mg/kg/day PO div q8h for 10 days.
Parotitis, suppurative ⁸⁵	Oxacillin/nafcillin IV AND gentamicin IV, IM for 10 days; consider vancomycin if MRSA suspected (AIII).	Usually staphylococcal but occasionally coliform. Antimicrobial regimen without incision/drainage is adequate in >75% of cases. ⁸⁶

A. RECOMMENDED THERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL CONDITIONS (continued)			
Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) <i>See tables</i> 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments	
Pulmonary infections			
- Empiric therapy for the neonate with early onset of pulmonary infiltrates (within the first 48-72 h after birth)	Ampicillin IV, IM AND gentamicin or ceftazidime/cefepime for 7–10 days; consider treating low-risk neonates for <7 days (see Comments).	For neonates with no additional risk factors for bacterial infection (eg, maternal chorioamnionitis) who (1) have negative blood cultures, (2) have no need for >8 h of oxygen, and (3) are asymptomatic at 48 h into therapy, 4 days may be sufficient therapy, based on babies with clinical pneumonia, none of whom had positive cultures. ⁸⁷	
– Aspiration pneumonia ⁸⁸	Ampicillin IV, IM AND gentamicin IV, IM for 7–10 days (AllI)	Early-onset neonatal pneumonia may represent aspiration of amniotic fluid, particularly if fluid is not sterile. Mild aspiration episodes may not require antibiotic therapy.	
– Chlamydia trachomatis ⁸⁹	Azithromycin PO, IV q24h for 5 days OR erythromycin ethylsuccinate PO for 14 days (All)	Association of erythromycin and azithromycin with pyloric stenosis in infants treated $<$ 6 wk of age 90	
– Mycoplasma hominis ^{91,92}	Clindamycin PO, IV for 10 days (resistant to macrolides)	Pathogenic role in pneumonia not well-defined and clinical efficacy unknown; no association with BPD (BIII)	
– Pertussis ⁹³	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg PO, IV q24h for 5 days OR erythromycin ethylsuccinate PO for 14 days (AII)	Association of erythromycin and azithromycin with pyloric stenosis in infants treated <6 wk of age ⁹⁰ Alternatives: for >1 mo of age, clarithromycin for 7 days; for >2 mo of age, TMP/SMX for 14 days	
– P aeruginosa ⁹⁴	Cefepime IV, IM for 10–14 days (AIII)	Alternatives: ceftazidime AND tobramycin, meropenem, OR pip/tazo AND tobramycin	

Respiratory syncytial virus⁹⁵

Treatment (see Comments).

Prophylaxis: palivizumab (a monoclonal antibody) 15 mg/kg IM monthly (max 5 doses) for the following high-risk infants (AI):

In first year after birth, palivizumab prophylaxis is recommended for infants born before 29 wk 0 days' gestation.

Palivizumab prophylaxis is not recommended for otherwise healthy infants born at ≥29 wk 0 days' gestation.

In first year after birth, palivizumab prophylaxis is recommended for preterm infants with CLD of prematurity, defined as birth at <32 wk 0 days' gestation and a requirement for >21% oxygen for at least 28 days after birth or at 36 wk of PMA.

28 days after birth or at 36 wk of PMA. Clinicians may administer palivizumab prophylaxis in the first year after birth to certain infants with hemodynamically significant heart disease. Aerosol ribavirin (6-g vial to make 20-mg/mL solution in sterile water), aerosolized over 18–20 h daily for 3–5 days (BII), provides little benefit and should be considered for use only in life-threatening RSV infection. Difficulties in administration, complications with airway reactivity, concern for potential toxicities to health care professionals, and lack of definitive evidence of benefit preclude routine use.

Palivizumab does not provide benefit in the treatment of an active RSV infection.

Palivizumab prophylaxis may be considered for children <24 mo who will be profoundly immunocompromised during the RSV season.

Palivizumab prophylaxis is not recommended in the second year after birth except for children who required at least 28 days of supplemental oxygen after birth and who continue to require medical support (supplemental oxygen, chronic corticosteroid therapy, or diuretic therapy) during the 6-mo period before the start of the second RSV season.

Monthly prophylaxis should be discontinued in any child who experiences a breakthrough RSV hospitalization.

Children with pulmonary abnormality or neuromuscular disease that impairs the ability to clear secretions from the upper airways may be considered for prophylaxis in the first year after birth.

Insufficient data are available to recommend palivizumab prophylaxis for children with cystic fibrosis or Down syndrome.

The burden of RSV disease and costs associated with transport from remote locations may result in a broader use of palivizumab for RSV prevention in Alaska Native populations and possibly in select other American Indian populations. 96,97

Palivizumab prophylaxis is not recommended for prevention of health care—associated RSV disease.

In neonates, 2 monoclonal antibodies against RSV are in phase 3 clinical trials but are not yet approved, so stay tuned: we may have new options beyond palivizumab by 2023.

RSV antivirals are currently investigational for neonates and young infants.

Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) See tables 2B–2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments
– SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	Remdesivir (All) 5 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 2.5 mg/kg/ day for up to 10 days	Must be ≥28 days of age and ≥3 kg, with positive result on SARS-CoV-2 viral testing. Consider corticosteroids. Remdesivir for preterm infants not FDA approved or covered by Emergency Use Authorization; consultation with pediatric ID specialist recommended.
– S aureus ^{20,98–100}	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV (AlII). MRSA: ceftaroline IV (BII) OR vancomycin IV (BII). Duration of therapy depends on extent of disease (pneumonia vs pulmonary abscesses vs empyema) and should be individualized with therapy up to ≥21 days.	Alternative for MSSA: cefazolin IV Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) (BIII) or linezolid (CIII) Addition of rifampin or linezolid if persistently positive cultures (AIII) Thoracostomy drainage of empyema
– Group B streptococcus ^{101,102}	Penicillin G IV OR ampicillin IV, IM for 10 days (AIII)	For serious infections, ADD gentamicin for synergy until clinically improved. No prospective, randomized data on the efficacy of a 7-day treatment course.
– Ureaplasma spp (urealyticum or parvum) ¹⁰³	Azithromycin ¹⁰⁴ IV 20 mg/kg once daily for 3 days (BII) ¹⁰⁵	Pathogenic role of $Ureaplasma$ not well-defined and BPD prophylaxis not currently recommended. Clinical trials are ongoing. 106 If only the nasogastric route is available, $10 \text{ mg/kg PO q } 12 \text{h} \times 6 \text{ can be}$ trialed instead of 20 mg/kg to improve gastrointestinal tolerability, but the absorption has not been evaluated and this approach may not achieve the same concentrations as IV. Many $Ureaplasma$ spp resistant to erythromycin. Association of erythromycin and pyloric stenosis in young infants.

Sepsis and meningitis 100,107,108

Duration of therapy: 10 days for sepsis without a focus (AllI); minimum of 21 days for gram-negative meningitis (or at least 14 days after CSF is sterile) and 14–21 days for GBS meningitis and other gram-positive bacteria (AIII).

There are no prospective, controlled studies on 5- or 7-day courses for mild or presumed sepsis.

– Initial therapy, organism unknown	Ampicillin IV AND a second agent, either cefepime/ceftazidime IV or gentamicin IV, IM (AII)	Gentamicin preferred over cephalosporins for empiric therapy for sepsis when meningitis has been ruled out. Cephalosporin preferred if meningitis suspected or cannot be excluded clinically or by lumbar puncture (AIII). For locations with a high rate (≥10%) of ESBL-producing <i>E coli</i> , and in which meningitis is suspected, empiric therapy with meropenem is preferred over cephalosporins. Initial empiric therapy for nosocomial infection should be based on each hospital's pathogens and susceptibilities. Essential: Always narrow antibiotic coverage once susceptibility data are available.			
– Bacteroides fragilis	Metronidazole or meropenem IV, IM (AIII)	Alternative: clindamycin, but increasing resistance reported			
– CRO ¹⁰⁹	Ceftazidime/avibactam IV 40 mg/kg q8h (see Chapter 18) (BIII)	Combination options: amikacin, colistin IV 2.5 mg/kg q12h. 110 ADD aztreonam if metallo-beta-lactamase producing (such as NDM or VIM, not currently prevalent in NICUs in the United States). Alternative: high-dose meropenem if CRO with MIC 4–8 mg/L. Consultation with ID specialist strongly recommended to assist with drug selection, monitoring, and acquisition of investigational agents if needed for emergency use (eg, meropenem/vaborbactam, imipenem/relebactam, fosfomycin, plazomicin).			
– Enterococcus spp	Ampicillin IV, IM AND gentamicin IV, IM (AIII); for ampicillin-resistant organisms: vancomycin AND gentamicin IV (AIII)	Gentamicin needed with ampicillin or vancomycin for bactericidal activity; continue until clinical and microbiological response documented (AIII). For vancomycin-resistant enterococci that are also ampicillin resistant linezolid (AIII).			

Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) See tables 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments		
– Enterovirus	Supportive therapy; no antivirals currently FDA approved	Pocapavir PO is currently under investigation for enterovirus (poliovirus). See Chapter 7. Pleconaril PO is currently under consideration for submission to FD/ for approval for treatment of neonatal enteroviral sepsis syndrome. As of May 2022, it is not available for compassionate use.		
– E coli ^{107,108}	Cefepime/ceftazidime IV or gentamicin IV, IM (AII)	Cephalosporin preferred if meningitis suspected or cannot be excluded by lumbar puncture (AllI) For locations with a high rate (≥10%) of ESBL-producing <i>E coli,</i> and in which meningitis is suspected, empiric therapy with meropenem preferred over cephalosporins		
– Group A or viridans streptococcus	Penicillin G or ampicillin IV (All)	Penicillin resistance increasingly reported for <i>Staphylococcus mitis</i> isolates; alternatives: vancomycin or linezolid		
– Group B streptococcus ¹⁰¹	Penicillin G or ampicillin IV AND gentamicin IV, IM (Al)	Continue gentamicin until clinical and microbiological response documented (AllI). Duration of therapy: 10 days for bacteremia/sepsis (AlI); minimum of 14 days for meningitis (AlI).		
– Listeria monocytogenes ¹¹²	Ampicillin IV, IM AND gentamicin IV, IM (AIII)	Gentamicin is synergistic in vitro with ampicillin. Continue until clinical and microbiological response documented (AIII).		
– Neisseria gonorrhoeae ¹¹³	Ceftriaxone OR cefepime OR ceftazidime IV (AI)	Duration of therapy: 7 days for bacteremia/sepsis (All), 10–14 days if meningitis is suspected or confirmed (BII). See Gonococcal earlier in this table under Conjunctivitis for recommendations.		
– Neisseria meningitidis	Ceftriaxone OR cefepime OR ceftazidime IV (AI)	Duration of therapy: 7 days for bacteremia/sepsis (All), 10–14 days if meningitis is suspected or confirmed (BII)		

– P aeruginosa	Cefepime IV, IM OR ceftazidime IV, IM AND tobramycin IV, IM (AIII)	Meropenem is a suitable alternative (AllI). Pip/tazo should not be used for CNS infection.		
- Staphylococcus epidermidis (or any coagulase-negative staphylococci)	Vancomycin IV (AIII)	Oxacillin/nafcillin and cefazolin are alternatives for methicillin- susceptible strains. Cefazolin does not enter CNS. Add rifampin if cultures persistently positive. ¹¹⁴ Alternatives: linezolid, ceftaroline.		
– S aureus ^{20,98–100,115–117}	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV, IM or cefazolin IV, IM (AII) MRSA: vancomycin IV or ceftaroline IV (AIII)	Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible), linezolid		
Skin and soft tissues				
– Breast abscess ¹¹⁸	Oxacillin/nafcillin IV, IM (for MSSA) OR vancomycin IV or ceftaroline IV (for MRSA). ADD cefepime/ceftazidime OR gentamicin if GNR seen on Gram stain (AIII).	Gram stain of expressed pus guides empiric therapy; vancomycin or ceftaroline if MRSA prevalent in community; other alternatives: clindamycin, linezolid; may need surgical drainage to minimize damage to breast tissue. Treatment duration individualized until clinical findings have completely resolved (AIII).		
– Congenital cutaneous candidiasis ¹¹⁹	AmB for 14 days, or 10 days if CSF culture negative (All) Alternative: fluconazole if <i>Candida albicans</i> or other <i>Candida</i> spp with known fluconazole susceptibility	Treat promptly with full IV treatment dose, not prophylactic dosing or topical therapy. Diagnostic workup includes aerobic cultures of skin lesions, blood, and CSF. Pathology examination of placenta and umbilical cord if possible.		
 Erysipelas (and other group A streptococcal infections) 	Penicillin G IV for 5–7 days, followed by oral therapy (if bacteremia not present) to complete a 10-day course (AIII)	Alternative: ampicillin. GBS may produce similar cellulitis or nodular lesions.		
– Impetigo neonatorum	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV, IM OR cephalexin (AlII) MRSA: vancomycin IV or ceftaroline IV for 5 days (AlII)	Systemic antibiotic therapy not usually required for superficial impetigo; local chlorhexidine cleansing may help with or without topical mupirocin (MRSA) or bacitracin (MSSA). Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin IV, PO or linezolid IV, PO.		

A. RECOMMENDED T	HERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL COND	DITIONS (continued)
Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) <i>See tables</i> 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments
– S aureus ^{20,98,100,120}	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV, IM (AlI) MRSA: ceftaroline IV (AlII) or vancomycin IV	Surgical drainage may be required. MRSA may cause necrotizing fasciitis. Alternatives for MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) IV, linezolid IV. Convalescent oral therapy if infection responds quickly to IV therapy.
– Group B streptococcus ¹⁰¹	Penicillin G IV OR ampicillin IV, IM	Usually no pus formed Treatment duration dependent on extent of infection, 7–14 days
Evaluation and treatment of	mo of age) ¹²¹ llin is compromised, contact CDC. do not depend on mother's HIV status. q2–3mo until nontreponemal test nonreactive o	r decreased 4-fold.
- Proven or highly probable disease: (1) abnormal physical examination; (2) serum quantitative nontreponemal serologic titer 4-fold higher than mother's titer; or (3) positive dark field or fluorescent antibody test of body fluid(s)	Aqueous penicillin G 50,000 U/kg/dose q12h (day after birth 1–7), q8h (>7 days) IV OR procaine penicillin G 50,000 U/kg IM q24h for 10 days (AII)	Evaluation to determine type and duration of therapy: CSF analysis (VDRL, cell count, protein), CBC, and platelet count. Other tests, as clinically indicated, including long-bone radiography, chest radiography, liver function tests, cranial ultrasonography, ophthalmologic examination, and hearing test (ABR). If CSF positive, repeat spinal tap with CSF VDRL at 6 mo and, if abnormal, re-treat. If >1 day of therapy is missed, entire course is restarted.

- Normal physical examination, serum quantitative nontreponemal serologic titer ≤ maternal titer, and maternal treatment was (1) none, inadequate, or undocumented; (2) erythromycin, or other non-penicillin regimen; or (3) <4 wk before delivery.	Evaluation abnormal or not done completely: aqueous penicillin G 50,000 U/kg/dose q12h (day after birth 1–7), q8h (>7 days) IV OR procaine penicillin G 50,000 U/kg IM q24h for 10 days (All) Evaluation normal: aqueous penicillin G 50,000 U/kg/dose q12h (day after birth 1–7), q8h (>7 days) IV OR procaine penicillin G 50,000 U/kg IM q24h for 10 days; OR penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg/dose IM in a single dose (AllI)	Evaluation: CSF analysis, CBC with platelet count, long-bone radiographs. If >1 day of therapy is missed, entire course is restarted. Reliable follow-up important if only a single dose of penicillin benzathine given.
 Normal physical examination, serum quantitative nontreponemal serologic titer ≤ maternal titer, mother treated adequately during pregnancy and >4 wk before delivery; no evidence of reinfection or relapse in mother 	Penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg/dose IM in a single dose (AIII)	No evaluation required. Some experts would not treat but provide close serologic follow-up.

A. RECOMMENDED T	A. RECOMMENDED THERAPY FOR SELECT NEONATAL CONDITIONS (continued)						
Condition	Therapy (evidence grade) <i>See tables</i> 2B-2D for neonatal dosages.	Comments					
 Normal physical examination, serum quantitative nontreponemal serologic titer ≤ maternal titer, mother treated adequately before pregnancy 	No treatment	No evaluation required. Some experts would treat with penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg as a single IM injection, particularly if follow-up is uncertain.					
Syphilis, congenital (>1 mo of age) ¹²¹	Aqueous penicillin G crystalline 200,000– 300,000 U/kg/day IV div q4–6h for 10 days (AII)	Evaluation to determine type and duration of therapy: CSF analysis (VDRL, cell count, protein), CBC, and platelet count. Other tests as clinically indicated, including long-bone radiography, chest radiography, liver function tests, neuroimaging, ophthalmologic examination, and hearing evaluation. If there are no clinical manifestations of disease, CSF examination is normal, and CSF VDRL test result is nonreactive, some specialists would treat with up to 3 weekly doses of penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg IM. Some experts would provide a single dose of penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U/kg IM after 10 days of parenteral treatment, but value of this additional therapy is not well-documented.					
Tetanus neonatorum ¹²²	Metronidazole IV, PO (alternative: penicillin G IV) for 10–14 days (AllI) Human TIG 3,000–6,000 U IM for 1 dose (AlII)	Wound cleaning and debridement vital; IVIG (200–400 mg/kg) is an alternative if TIG not available; equine tetanus antitoxin not available in the United States but is alternative to TIG.					
Toxoplasmosis, congenital 123,124	Sulfadiazine 100 mg/kg/day PO div q12h AND pyrimethamine 2 mg/kg PO daily for 2 days (loading dose), then 1 mg/kg PO q24h for 2–6 mo, then 3 times weekly (M-W-F) up to 1 y (All) Folinic acid (leucovorin) 10 mg 3 times weekly (All)	Corticosteroids (1 mg/kg/day div q12h) if active chorioretinitis or CSF protein >1 g/dL (AllI). Round sulfadiazine dose to 125 or 250 mg (¼ or ½ of 500-mg tab); round pyrimethamine dose to 6.25 or 12.5 mg (¼ or ½ of 25-mg tab). OK to crush tabs to give with feeding. Start sulfadiazine after neonatal jaundice has resolved. Therapy is effective against only active trophozoites, not cysts.					

Urinary tract infection¹²⁵

No prophylaxis for grades 1–3 reflux. 126,127
In neonates with reflux, prophylaxis reduces recurrences but increases likelihood of recurrences being due to resistant organisms. Prophylaxis does not affect renal scarring. 126

– Initial therapy, organism unknown	Ampicillin AND gentamicin; OR ampicillin AND cefepime/ceftazidime, pending culture and susceptibility test results, for 7–10 days	Renal ultrasound and VCUG indicated after first UTI to identify abnormalities of urinary tract Oral therapy acceptable once neonate asymptomatic and culture sterile
– Coliform bacteria (eg, <i>E</i> coli, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Serratia)	Cefepime/ceftazidime IV, IM OR, in absence of renal or perinephric abscess, gentamicin IV, IM for 7–10 days (AII)	Ampicillin or cefazolin used for susceptible organisms
– Enterococcus	Ampicillin IV, IM for 7 days for cystitis, may need 10–14 days for pyelonephritis, add gentamicin until cultures are sterile (AIII); for ampicillin resistance, use vancomycin, add gentamicin until cultures are sterile.	Aminoglycoside needed with ampicillin or vancomycin for synergistic bactericidal activity (assuming organisms are susceptible to an aminoglycoside)
– P aeruginosa	Cefepime IV, IM, OR ceftazidime IV, IM OR, in absence of renal or perinephric abscess, tobramycin IV, IM for 7–10 days (AIII)	Meropenem is an alternative.
– Candida spp ^{35–37}	See Candidiasis earlier in this table under Fungal infections.	

B. ANTIMICROBIAL DOSAGES FOR NEONATES—Lead author Jason Sauberan, assisted by the editors and John Van Den Anker Dosages (mg/kg/day) and Intervals of Administration Chronologic Age ≤28 days Bodv Weight ≤2,000 g Body Weight >2,000 g Chronologic Age **Antimicrobial** 0-7 days old 8-28 days old 0-7 days old 8-28 days old 29-60 days Route NOTE: This table contains empiric dosage recommendations for each agent listed. See Table 2A for more details of dosages for specific pathogens in specific tissue sites and for information on anti-influenza and antiretroviral drug dosages. Acvclovir (treatment of acute IV 60 div a8h disease) Acyclovir (suppression following PO 900/m²/day div 900/m²/day div 900/m²/day div q8h treatment of acute disease) a8h a8h Only IV acyclovir should be used for the treatment of acute neonatal HSV disease. Oral suppression therapy for a duration of 6 mo after completion of initial IV treatment. Amoxicillin PΩ 75 div a12h 100 div a12h 100 div a12h 100 div a12h Amoxicillin/clavulanate^a PO 30 div q12h 30 div q12h 30 div q12h Amphotericin B - Deoxycholate IV 1 q24h 1 q24h 1 q24h 1 q24h 1 q24h Lipid complex IV 5 a24h 5 a24h 5 a24h 5 a24h 5 a24h - Liposomal IV 5 a24h 5 a24h 5 a24h 5 a24h 5 a24h 100 div q12h Ampicillin IV. IM 150 div q12h 150 div a8h 150 div a8h 200 div a6h Ampicillin (GBS meningitis) IV 300 div a8h 300 div a6h 300 div a8h 300 div a6h 300 div a6h IV Anidulafungin^b 1.5 a24h 1.5 a24h 1.5 a24h 1.5 a24h 1.5 q24h

10 a24h

10 a24h

10 a24h

10 a24h

Azithromycin^c

IV, PO

10 a24h

Aztreonam	IV, IM	60 div q12h	90 div q8h ^d	90 div q8h	120 div q6h	120 div q6h
Cefazolin (Enterobacterales) ^e	IV, IM	50 div q12h	75 div q8h	100 div q12h	150 div q8h	100-150 div q6-8h
Cefazolin (MSSA)	IV, IM	50 div q12h	50 div q12h	75 div q8h	75 div q8h	75 div q8h
Cefepime	IV, IM	60 div q12h	60 div q12h	100 div q12h	100 div q12h	150 div q8h ^f
Cefotaxime	IV, IM	100 div q12h	150 div q8h	100 div q12h	150 div q6h	200 div q6h
Ceftaroline	IV, IM	12 div q12h ^g	18 div q8h ^g	18 div q8h	18 div q8h	18 div q8h
Ceftazidime	IV, IM	100 div q12h	150 div q8h ^d	100 div q12h	150 div q8h	150 div q8h
Ceftriaxone ^h	IV, IM	_	_	50 q24h	50 q24h	50 q24h
Ciprofloxacin	IV	15 div q12h	15 div q12h	25 div q12h	25 div q12h	25 div q12h
Clindamycin	IV, IM, PO	15 div q8h	15 div q8h	21 div q8h	27 div q8h	30 div q8h
Daptomycin (Potential neurotoxicity; use cautiously if no other options.)	IV	12 div q12h				
Erythromycin	IV, PO	40 div q6h				
Fluconazole						
– Treatment ⁱ	IV, PO	12 q24h				
– Prophylaxis	IV, PO	6 mg/kg/dose twice weekly	6 mg/kg/dose twice weekly	6 mg/kg/dose twice weekly	6 mg/kg/dose twice weekly	6 mg/kg/dose twice weekly
Flucytosine ^j	РО	75 div q8h	100 div q6hd	100 div q6h	100 div q6h	100 div q6h
Ganciclovir	IV	12 div q12h				
Linezolid	IV, PO	20 div q12h	30 div q8h	30 div q8h	30 div q8h	30 div q8h

B. ANTIMICROBIAL DOSAGES FOR NEONATES (continued)—Lead author Jason Sauberan, assisted by the editors and John Van Den Anker Dosages (mg/kg/day) and Intervals of Administration Chronologic Age ≤28 days Body Weight ≤2,000 g Body Weight >2,000 g Chronologic Age **Antimicrobial** 0-7 days old 8-28 days old 0-7 days old 8-28 days old 29-60 days Route Meropenem - Sepsis, IAIk IV 40 div a12h 60 div a8hk 60 div a8h 90 div a8hk 90 div a8h - Meningitis IV 80 div a12h 120 div a8hk 120 div a8h 120 div a8h 120 div a8h - CRO with MIC 4-8 mg/L Metronidazole¹ IV. PO 15 div q12h 15 div a12h 22.5 div q8h 30 div q8h 30 div q8h Micafungin IV 10 a24h 10 a24h 10 a24h 10 a24h 10 a24h Nafcillin,^m oxacillin^m IV, IM 50 div a12h 75 div a8hd 75 div a8h 100 div a6h 150 div a6h Penicillin G benzathine 50,000 U IM 50,000 U 50,000 U 50,000 U 50,000 U Penicillin G crystalline (GBS sepsis. IV 100,000 U div 150.000 U div 100.000 U div 150.000 U div 200,000 U div q6h congenital syphilis) a12h a8h a12h q8h Penicillin G crystalline (GBS IV 450,000 U div 500,000 U div 450,000 U div 500,000 U div 500,000 U div a6h meningitis) a8h a6h a8h a6h Penicillin G procaine 50.000 U a24h IM 50,000 U q24h 50,000 U q24h 50,000 U q24h 50,000 U q24h IV Piperacillin/tazobactam 300 div q8h 320 div q6hn 320 div q6h 320 div q6h 320 div q6h Rifampino IV, PO 10 a24h 10 a24h 10 a24h 10 a24h 10 a24h Valganciclovir PO Insufficient Insufficient 32 div a12h 32 div a12h 32 div a12h data data

12 div q12h

12 div q12h

12 div q12h

16 div q12h

Voriconazole^p

IV

12 div q12h

Zidovudine	IV	3 div q12h ^q	3 div q12h ^q	6 div q12h	6 div q12h	See HIV prophylaxis in Table 2A.
	РО	4 div q12h ^q	4 div q12h ^q	8 div q12h	8 div q12h	See HIV prophylaxis in Table 2A.

^a For susceptible *H influenzae* infections. Higher dosing 75 mg/kg/day div q8h needed for IV to oral step-down treatment of susceptible *E coli*. May use 25- or 50-mg/mL formulation

- ^b Loading dose 3 mg/kg followed 24 h later by maintenance dose listed.
- ^c See Table 2A for pathogen-specific dosing.
- d Use 0-7 days old dosing until 14 days old if birth weight <1.000 g.
- ^e If isolate MIC <8 mg/L and no CNS focus.
- f Infusion over 3 h, or 200 mg/kg/day div g6h, to treat organisms with MIC 8 mg/L.
- g Serum concentration monitoring recommended by high-performance liquid chromatography assay (available commercially) to avoid excessive exposure, although no specific toxicity is associated with this cephalosporin. Goal exposure is a concentration > MIC (usually 0.5 or 1 mg/L) at 60% of the dosing interval post-dose.
- h Usually avoided in neonates. Can be considered for transitioning to outpatient treatment of GBS bacteremia in well-appearing neonates with low risk for hyperbilirubinemia. Contraindicated if concomitant IV calcium (see Notes at beginning of chapter).
- ¹ Loading dose 25 mg/kg followed 24 h later by maintenance dose listed.
- ^j Desired serum concentrations peak 60–80 mg/L, trough 5–10 mg/L to achieve time-above-MIC of >40% for invasive candidiasis (trough 10–20 mg/L acceptable for *Cryptococcus*). Dose range 50–100 mg/kg/day. Always use in combination with other agents; be alert to development of resistance. Time-above-MIC of >40% is target for invasive candidiasis.
- ^k Adjust dosage after 14 days of age instead of after 7 days of age.
- ¹ Loading dose 15 mg/kg.
- ^mDouble the dose for meningitis.
- ⁿ When PMA reaches >30 wk.
- o May require 15 mg/kg q24h after 14 days of age at any weight to clear persistent Staphylococcus bacteremia. Monitor potential toxicities with platelet count and liver function testing.
- ^p Adjust dose to target trough 2–5 mg/L (see Aspergillosis in Table 2A under Fungal Infections).
- ^q Starting dose if GA <35 wk 0 days and PNA ≤14 days. See HIV prophylaxis in Table 2A for ZDV dosage after 2 wk of age and for NVP and 3TC recommendations.

C. AMINOGL	YCOSIDES						
			Empiric Dosa	ge (mg/kg/dose) l	by Gestational ar	nd Postnatal Ages	5
		<30 wk		30–34 wk ^a		≥35 wk³	
Medication	Route	0-14 days	>14 days	0-10 days	>10 days	0-7 days	>7 days
Amikacin ^b	IV, IM	15 q48h	15 q36h	15 q36h	15 q24h	15 q24h	17.5 q24h
Gentamicin ^c	IV, IM	5 q48h	5 q36h	5 q36h	5 q24h	4 q24h	5 q24h
Tobramycin ^c	IV, IM	5 q48h	5 q36h	5 q36h	5 q24h	4 q24h	5 q24h

^a If >60 days of age, see Chapter 18.

^b Desired serum or plasma concentrations: 20–35 mg/L or 10 × MIC (peak), <7 mg/L (trough).

^c Desired serum or plasma concentrations: 6–12 mg/L or 10 × MIC (peak), <2 mg/L (trough). A 7.5 mg/kg dose q48h, or q36h if ≥30 wk of GA and >7 days' PNA, more likely to achieve desired concentrations if pathogen MIC = 1 mg/L.¹²⁸

D. VANCOMYCIN^a

Empiric Dosage by Gestational Age and SCr Beain with a 20 ma/ka loading dose.

≤28 wk of GA			>28 wk of GA			
SCr (mg/dL)	Dose (mg/kg)	Frequency	SCr (mg/dL)	Dose (mg/kg)	Frequency	
<0.5	15	q12h	<0.7	15	q12h	
0.5-0.7	20	q24h	0.7-0.9	20	q24h	
0.8-1.0	15	q24h	1.0-1.2	15	q24h	
1.1-1.4	10	q24h	1.3–1.6	10	q24h	
>1.4	15	q48h	>1.6	15	q48h	

a SCr concentrations normally fluctuate and are partly influenced by transplacental maternal creatinine in the first week after birth. Cautious use of creatinine-based dosing strategy with frequent reassessment of renal function and vancomycin serum concentrations is recommended in neonates ≤7 days old. Desired serum concentrations: a 24-h AUC:MIC of at least 400 mg·h/L is recommended based on adult studies of invasive MRSA infections. The AUC is best calculated from 2 concentrations (ie, peak and trough) rather than 1 trough serum concentration. When AUC calculation is not feasible, a trough concentration ≥10 mg/L is very highly likely (>90%) to achieve the goal AUC target in neonates when the MIC is 1 mg/L. However, troughs as low as 7 mg/L can still achieve an AUC ≥400 in some preterm neonates due to their slower clearance. Thus, AUC is preferred over trough monitoring to prevent unnecessary overexposure. For centers where invasive MRSA infection is relatively common or where MRSA with MIC of 1 mg/L is common, an online dosing tool is available that may improve the likelihood of empirically achieving AUC ≥400, compared with Table 2D (https://connect.insight-rx.com/neovanco; accessed September 26, 2022). If >60 days of age, see Chapter 18.

E. Use of Antimicrobials During Pregnancy or Breastfeeding

The use of antimicrobials during pregnancy and lactation should balance benefit to the mother with the risk for fetal and neonatal toxicity (including anatomic anomalies with fetal exposure). A number of factors determine the degree of transfer of antibiotics across the placenta: lipid solubility, degree of ionization, molecular weight, protein binding, placental maturation, and placental and fetal blood flow. The Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Rule of 2014 began replacing the traditional A to X risk categories with narrative summaries of risks associated with the use of a drug during pregnancy and lactation for the mother, the fetus, and the breastfeeding newborn/infant/child. The risk categories from A to X were felt to be too simplistic. This transition was completed in 2020. Risks are now all clearly noted, and for drugs with high fetal risk, black box warnings are included (eg, ribavirin). ¹²⁹ Fetal serum antibiotic concentrations (or cord blood concentrations) following maternal administration have not been systematically studied, but new pharmacokinetic models of transplacental drug transfer and fetal metabolism have recently been developed to provide some insight into fetal drug exposure. ¹³⁰⁻¹³² The following commonly used drugs appear to achieve fetal concentrations that are equal to or only slightly less

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than those in the mother: penicillin G, amoxicillin, ampicillin, sulfonamides, trimethoprim, tetracyclines, and oseltamivir. The aminoglycoside concentrations in fetal serum are 20% to 50% of those in maternal serum. Cephalosporins, carbapenems, nafcillin, oxacillin, clindamycin, and vancomycin penetrate poorly (10%–30%), and fetal concentrations of erythromycin and azithromycin are less than 10% of those in the mother.

The most current updated information on the pharmacokinetics and safety of antimicrobials and other agents in human milk can be found at the National Library of Medicine LactMed website (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK501922; accessed September 26, 2022).¹³³

In general, neonatal exposure to antimicrobials in human milk is minimal or insignificant. Aminoglycosides, beta-lactams, ciprofloxacin, clindamycin, macrolides, fluconazole, and agents for tuberculosis are considered safe for the mother to take during breastfeeding.

134,135 The most commonly reported neonatal side effect of maternal antimicrobial use during breastfeeding is increased stool output.

136 Clinicians should recommend that mothers alert their pediatric health care professional if stool output changes occur. Maternal treatment with sulfa-containing antibiotics should be approached with caution in the breastfed infant who is jaundiced or ill.

3. Preferred Therapy for Specific Bacterial and Mycobacterial Pathogens

NOTES

- For fungal, viral, and parasitic infections, see chapters 5, 7, and 9, respectively.
- Limitations of space do not permit listing of all possible alternative antimicrobials.
- Again this year, cefotaxime, a third-generation cephalosporin approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for children more than 3 decades ago, is not given as an option for therapy for pathogens, as it is not routinely available in the United States. Ceftriaxone has a virtually identical antibacterial spectrum of activity to cefotaxime; cefepime is very similar in gram-positive activity but adds *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (and some enhanced activity for *Enterobacter*, *Serratia*, and *Citrobacter*) to the gramnegative activity of cefotaxime; ceftazidime adds *Pseudomonas* activity but loses grampositive activity, compared with cefotaxime. Cefepime,¹ ceftazidime,² and, of course, ceftriaxone have been documented to be effective in pediatric meningitis clinical trials.
- Abbreviations: amox/clav, amoxicillin/clavulanate (Augmentin); amp/sul, ampicillin/ sulbactam; bid, twice daily; CA-MRSA, community-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus; CAZ/AVI, ceftazidime/avibactam; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CNS, central nervous system; div, divided; ESBL, extendedspectrum beta-lactamase; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; HACEK, Haemophilus aphrophilus, Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans, Cardiobacterium hominis, Eikenella corrodens, and Kingella spp; HRSA, Health Resources and Services Administration; IM, intramuscular; INH, isoniazid; IV, intravenous; IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulin; KPC, Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase; MDR, multidrug resistant; mero/vabor, meropenem/vaborbactam; MIC, minimal inhibitory concentration; MRSA, methicillin-resistant S aureus; MSSA, methicillin-susceptible S aureus; NARMS, National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System for Enteric Bacteria; NDM, New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase; PCV13, pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate vaccine; pen-S, penicillin-susceptible; pip/tazo, piperacillin/tazobactam; PO, oral; PZA, pyrazinamide; spp, species; tid, 3 times daily; TIG, tetanus immune globulin; TMP/ SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole; UTI, urinary tract infection.

A. COMMON BACTERIAL PATHOGENS AND USUAL PATTERN OF **SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ANTIBIOTICS (GRAM POSITIVE)**

Commonly Used Antibiotics (One Agent per Class Listed) (scale - to ++ defined in footnote)

	•			
	Penicillin	Ampicillin/ Amoxicillin	Amoxicillin/ Clavulanate	Methicillin/ Oxacillin
Enterococcus faecalisa	++	++	+	_
Enterococcus faecium ^a	++	++	+	_
Nocardia spp ^b	_	_	±	_
Staphylococcus, coagulase negative	_	-	_	±
Staphylococcus aureus, methicillin-resistant	_	_	_	_
Staphylococcus aureus, methicillin-susceptible	_	-	_	++
Streptococcus pneumoniae	++	++	++	+
Streptococcus pyogenes	++	++	++	++

NOTE: ++ = preferred; + = acceptable; ± = possibly effective (see text for further discussion); − = unlikely to be

^a Need to add gentamicin or other aminoglycoside to ampicillin/penicillin or vancomycin for in vitro bactericidal activity.

^b Nocardia is usually susceptible to TMP/SMX, carbapenems (meropenem), and amikacin.

	Commonly Used Antibiotics (One Agent per Class Listed) (scale — to ++ defined in footnote)					
Cefazolin/ Cephalexin	Vancomycin	Clindamycin	Linezolid	Daptomycin	Ceftaroline	
_	+	_	+	+	_	
_	+	_	+	+	_	
_	_	_	+	_	_	
±	++	+	++	++	++	
_	++	++	++	++	++	
++	++	+	++	++	++	
++	+	+	++	+	++	
++	+	++	+	++	++	

Preferred Therapy for Bacterial & Mycobacterial Pathogens

B. COMMON BACTERIAL PATHOGENS AND USUAL PATTERN OF SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ANTIBIOTICS (GRAM NEGATIVE)^a

Commonly Used Antibiotics (One Agent per Class Listed)
(scale — to ++ defined in footnote)

		Amoxicillin/ Clavulanate		Cefuroxime	Ceftriaxone	Ceftazidime/ Avibactam
Acinetobacter spp	_	-	-	-	+	+
Citrobacter spp	_	_	_	+	+	++
Enterobacter sppb	_	_	_	±	+	++
Escherichia coli ^c	+	+	+	++ d	++ d	++
Haemophilus influenzae ^f	+	++	+	++	++	++
Klebsiella spp ^c	_	_	+	++	++	++
Neisseria meningitidis Pseudomonas	++	++		+	++	+
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	_	_	_	_	_	++
Salmonella, non- typhoid spp	+	++			++	++
Serratia spp ^b	_	_	_	±	+	++
Shigella spp	+	++	+	+	++	++
Stenotrophomonas maltophilia	-	-	-	_	-	+

NOTE: ++ = preferred; + = acceptable; ± = possibly effective (see text for further discussion); - = unlikely to be effective: [blank cell] = untested.

^a CDC (NARMS) statistics for each state, by year, are found for many enteric pathogens on the CDC website at https://wwwn.cdc.gov/narmsnow and are also provided by the SENTRY surveillance system (JMI Laboratories); we also use current pediatric hospital antibiograms from the editors' hospitals to assess pediatric trends. When sufficient data are available, pediatric community isolate susceptibility data are used. Nosocomial resistance patterns may be quite different, usually with increased resistance, particularly in adults; please check your local/regional hospital antibiogram for your local susceptibility patterns.

^b AmpC will be constitutively produced in low frequency in every population of organisms and will be selected out during therapy with 3rd-generation cephalosporins if used as single-agent therapy.

^c Rare carbapenem-resistant isolates in pediatrics (KPC, NDM strains).

^d Will be resistant to virtually all current cephalosporins if ESBL producing.

^e Follow the MIC, not the report for susceptible (S), intermediate (I), or resistant (R), as some ESBL producers will have low MICs and can be effectively treated with higher dosages.

f Will be resistant to ampicillin/amoxicillin if beta-lactamase producing.

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Commonly Used Antibiotics (One Agent per Class Listed) (scale — to ++ defined in footnote)						
Ceftazidime	Cefepime	Meropenem/ Imipenem	Piperacillin/ Tazobactam	TMP/SMX	Ciprofloxacin	Gentamic
+	+	+	+	+	+	_
+	++	++	+	++	++	+
+	++	++	+	++	++	+
++ d	++e	++	++	+	++	+
++	++	++	++	++	++	±
++	++ e	++	++	++	++	++
+	++	++	++		+	
+	++	++	++	_	++	+
++	++	++	++	++	++	+
+	++	++	+	++	++	++
++	++	++	++	±	++	
+	±	_	±	++	+	_

C. COMMON BACTERIAL PATHOGENS AND USUAL PATTERN OF SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ANTIBIOTICS (ANAEROBES)

	Commonly Used Antibiotics (One Agent per Class Listed) (scale — to ++ defined in footnote)					
	Penicillin	Ampicillin/ Amoxicillin	Amoxicillin/ Clavulanate	Cefazolin	Cefoxitin	
Anaerobic streptococci	++	++	++	++	++	
Bacteroides fragilis	±	±	++	_	+	
Clostridia (eg, tetani, perfringens)	++	++	++		+	
Clostridium difficile	_	_	_		_	

NOTE: ++ = preferred; += acceptable; ± = possibly effective (see text for further discussion); - = unlikely to be effective; [blank cell] = untested.

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	Commonly Used Antibiotics (One Agent per Class Listed) (scale — to ++ defined in footnote)					
Ceftriaxone/ Cefepime	Meropenem/ Imipenem	Piperacillin/ Tazobactam	Metronidazole	Clindamycin	Vancomycin	
++	++	++	++	++	++	
_	++	++	++	+		
±	++	++	++	+	++	
_	++		++	_	++	

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Acinetobacter baumannii ³⁻⁷	Sepsis, meningitis, nosocomial pneumonia, wound infection	Cefepime; meropenem (BIII) or other carbapenem	Use culture results to guide therapy. Consult an infectious disease specialist for highly MDR strains, as there are multiple mechanisms of resistance, with no single antibiotic that is routinely effective against all strains. Possible options: ceftazidime ± avibactam, amp/sul, pip/tazo, TMP/SMX, ciprofloxacin, tigecycline/eravacycline, colistin/polymyxin B/cefiderocol. Cefiderocol is currently under active pediatric investigation. Watch for emergence of resistance during therapy, including to colistin. Consider combination therapy for life-threatening infection. ⁷ Inhaled colistin for pneumonia caused by MDR strains (BIII).
Actinomyces israelii ^{8,9}	Actinomycosis (cervicofacial, thoracic, abdominal)	Penicillin G; ampicillin (CIII)	Amoxicillin, doxycycline, clindamycin, ceftriaxone, meropenem, pip/tazo, linezolid
Aeromonas hydrophila ¹⁰	Diarrhea	Ciprofloxacin (CIII)	TMP/SMX, ceftriaxone, cefepime
	Sepsis, cellulitis, necrotizing fasciitis	Cefepime (BIII); ciprofloxacin (BIII)	Meropenem, TMP/SMX

Aggregatibacter (formerly Actinobacillus) actinomycetemcomitans ¹¹	Periodontitis, abscesses (including brain), endocarditis	Ceftriaxone (CIII)	Ampicillin/amoxicillin for beta- lactamase–negative strains, or amox/clav, doxycycline, TMP/ SMX, ciprofloxacin
Aggregatibacter (formerly Haemophilus) aphrophilus ¹²	Sepsis, endocarditis, abscesses (including brain)	Ceftriaxone (AII); OR ampicillin (if beta-lactamase negative) AND gentamicin (BII)	Ciprofloxacin, amox/clav (for strains resistant to ampicillin) One of the HACEK organisms that cause endocarditis
Anaplasma (formerly Ehrlichia) phagocytophilum ^{13,14}	Human granulocytic anaplasmosis	Doxycycline (all ages) (All)	Rifampin, levofloxacin
Arcanobacterium haemolyticum ¹⁵	Pharyngitis, cellulitis, Lemierre syndrome	Azithromycin; penicillin (BIII)	Erythromycin, amoxicillin, ceftriaxone, clindamycin, vancomycin
Bacillus anthracis ¹⁶	Anthrax (cutaneous, gastrointestinal, inhalational, meningoencephalitis)	Ciprofloxacin (regardless of age) (AlII). For invasive systemic infection, use combination therapy. Wildtype strains are likely to be susceptible to penicillin.	Doxycycline, amoxicillin, levofloxacin, clindamycin, penicillin G, vancomycin, meropenem. Bioterror strains may be antibiotic resistant.
Bacillus cereus or subtilis ^{17,18}	Sepsis; toxin-mediated gastroenteritis	Vancomycin (BIII)	Clindamycin, ciprofloxacin, linezolid, daptomycin
Bacteroides fragilis ^{19,20}	Peritonitis, sepsis, abscesses	Metronidazole (AI)	Meropenem or imipenem (Al); pip/tazo (Al); amox/clav (Bil). Recent surveillance suggests resistance of up to 25%–50% globally for clindamycin.
Bacteroides, other spp ^{19,20}	Pneumonia, sepsis, abscesses	Metronidazole (BII)	Meropenem or imipenem; penicillin G or ampicillin if beta- lactamase negative

Organism	R SPECIFIC BACTERIAL AND Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	
Bartonella henselae ^{21,22}	Cat-scratch disease	Azithromycin for lymph node disease (BII); gentamicin AND TMP/SMX AND rifampin for hepatosplenic disease and osteomyelitis (BIII). For CNS infection, use ceftriaxone AND gentamicin ± TMP/SMX (BIII).	Ciprofloxacin, doxycycline
Bartonella quintana ^{22,23}	Bacillary angiomatosis, peliosis hepatis, endocarditis	Gentamicin plus rifampin, OR doxycycline plus rifampin (BIII); erythromycin; ciprofloxacin (BIII)	Azithromycin, doxycycline
Bordetella pertussis, parapertussis ^{24,25}	Pertussis	Azithromycin (AIII); erythromycin (BII)	Clarithromycin, TMP/SMX, ciprofloxacin (in vitro data)
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi,</i> Lyme disease ^{26,27}	Treatment based on stage of infection (See Lyme disease in Chapter 1, Table 1L.)	Doxycycline for all ages (All); amoxicillin or cefuroxime can be used in children ≤7 y (Alll); ceftriaxone IV for CNS/ meningitis (All).	Azithromycin. A single course of doxycycline is not associated with detectable tooth staining in children.
Borrelia hermsii, turicatae, parkeri; tick-borne relapsing fever ^{28,29}	Relapsing fever	Doxycycline for all ages (AllI)	Penicillin or erythromycin in children intolerant of doxycycline (BIII). A single course of doxycycline is not associated with detectable tooth staining in children.
Borrelia recurrentis, louse-borne relapsing fever ^{28,29}	Relapsing fever	Single-dose doxycycline for all ages (AIII)	Penicillin or erythromycin in children intolerant of doxycycline (BIII). Amoxicillin; ceftriaxone. A single course of doxycycline is not associated with detectable tooth staining in children.

Brucella spp ³⁰⁻³²	Brucellosis (See Chapter 1.)	Doxycycline AND rifampin (BIII); OR, for children ≤7 y: TMP/SMX AND rifampin (BIII)	For serious infection: doxycycline AND gentamicin AND rifampin; or TMP/SMX AND gentamicin AND rifampin (Alll). May require extended therapy (months).
Burkholderia cepacia complex ³³⁻³⁶	Pneumonia, sepsis in immunocompromised children; pneumonia in children with cystic fibrosis ³⁶	Meropenem (BIII); for severe disease, consider combination therapy with TMP/SMX or levofloxacin (AIII).	Ceftolozane/tazobactam, doxycycline, minocycline, ceftazidime, CAZ/AVI, pip/tazo, ciprofloxacin, TMP/SMX. Aerosolized antibiotics may provide higher concentrations in lung.
Burkholderia pseudomallei ^{37–39}	Melioidosis	Meropenem (AllI) or ceftazidime (BIII), followed by prolonged TMP/SMX for 12 wk (All)	TMP/SMX, doxycycline, or amox/ clav for chronic disease
Campylobacter fetus ^{40–42}	Sepsis, meningitis in the neonate	Meropenem (BIII)	Ampicillin, gentamicin, erythromycin, ciprofloxacin
Campylobacter jejuni ^{42,43}	Diarrhea	Azithromycin (BII); erythromycin (BII)	Amox/clav, doxycycline, ciprofloxacin (very high rates of ciprofloxacin-resistant strains in Thailand, Hong Kong, and Spain)
Capnocytophaga canimorsus ^{44,45}	Sepsis after dog bite (increased risk with asplenia)	Pip/tazo OR meropenem; amox/ clav (BIII)	Clindamycin, linezolid, penicillin G, imipenem, ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone
Capnocytophaga ochracea ^{46,47}	Neonatal sepsis, abscesses	Ampicillin, ceftriaxone (BIII); amox/clav (BIII)	Meropenem, pip/tazo, ciprofloxacin
Cellulosimicrobium (formerly Oerskovia) cellulans ⁴⁸	Wound infection; catheter infection	Vancomycin ± rifampin (AIII)	Linezolid; resistant to beta- lactams, macrolides, clindamycin, aminoglycosides

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Chlamydia trachomatis ^{49–51}	Lymphogranuloma venereum	Doxycycline (All)	Azithromycin, erythromycin
	Urethritis, cervicitis	Doxycycline (All)	Azithromycin, erythromycin, ofloxacin
	Inclusion conjunctivitis of newborn	Azithromycin (AIII)	Erythromycin
	Pneumonia of infancy	Azithromycin (AIII)	Erythromycin, ampicillin
	Trachoma	Azithromycin (AI)	Doxycycline, erythromycin
Chlamydophila (formerly Chlamydia) pneumoniae ^{49,50,52}	Pneumonia	Azithromycin (All); erythromycin (All)	Doxycycline, levofloxacin
Chlamydophila (formerly Chlamydia) psittaci ⁵³	Psittacosis	Doxycycline (All) for >7 y; azithromycin (AllI) OR erythromycin (AllI) for ≤7 y	Levofloxacin
Chromobacterium violaceum ^{54–56}	Sepsis, pneumonia, abscesses	Meropenem ± ciprofloxacin depending on severity of the disease (AIII)	Susceptibility is variable. Other options may include TMP/SMX, cefepime, amikacin, imipenem, ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, and pip/tazo.
Citrobacter koseri (formerly diversus) and freundii ^{57,58}	Meningitis, sepsis	Cefepime should be active against most ampC beta-lactamase– expressing strains; meropenem will be active against both ampC and ESBL-expressing strains.	Ciprofloxacin, pip/tazo, ceftriaxone AND gentamicin, TMP/SMX, colistin Carbapenem-resistant strains now reported; may be susceptible to CAZ/AVI, mero/vabor, imipenem/relebactam, or cefiderocol ^{5,57}

Clostridioides (formerly Clostridium) difficile ^{59–61}	Antibiotic-associated colitis (See Clostridioides difficile in Chapter 1, Table 1H.)	Treatment stratified by severity and recurrence First episode	Stop the predisposing antimicrobial therapy, if possible.
		Mild to moderate illness: metronidazole PO Moderate to severe illness: vancomycin PO or fidaxomicin PO ⁶²	For relapsing <i>C difficile</i> enteritis, consider pulse therapy with vancomycin (1 wk on/1 wk off for 3–4 cycles) or prolonged tapering therapy.
		Severe and complicated/systemic: vancomycin PO AND metronidazole IV	No pediatric data on fecal transplant for recurrent disease.
Clostridium botulinum ⁶³⁻⁶⁵	Botulism: foodborne; wound; potentially bioterror related	Botulism antitoxin heptavalent (equine) types A–G FDA approved in 2013 (www.fda. gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/approved-blood-products/bat-botulism-antitoxin-heptavalent-b-c-d-e-f-g-equine; accessed September 27, 2022). No antibiotic treatment except for wound botulism when treatment for vegetative organisms can be provided after antitoxin administered (no controlled data).	For more information, call your state health department or the CDC clinical emergency botulism service, 770/488-7100 (www.cdc.gov/botulism/health-professional.html; accessed September 27, 2022). For bioterror public exposure, treatment recommendations will be emergently posted on the CDC website.
	Infant botulism	Human botulism immune globulin for infants (BabyBIG) (AII) No antibiotic treatment	BabyBIG available nationally from the California Department of Public Health at 510/231-7600 (www.infantbotulism.org; accessed September 27, 2022)

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Clostridium perfringens ^{66,67}	Gas gangrene/necrotizing fasciitis/ sepsis (also caused by Clostridium sordellii, septicum, novyi) Food poisoning	Penicillin G AND clindamycin for invasive infection (BII); no antimicrobials indicated for foodborne illness. The clindamycin is recommended by some experts to inhibit toxin production.	Meropenem, metronidazole, clindamycin monotherapy No defined benefit of hyperbaric oxygen over aggressive surgery/ antibiotic therapy
Clostridium tetani ^{68–70}	Tetanus	TIG 500 U (previously 3,000– 6,000 U) IM, with part injected directly into the wound (IVIG at 200–400 mg/kg if TIG not available) Metronidazole (AIII) OR penicillin G (BIII)	Prophylaxis for contaminated wounds: 250 U IM for those with <3 tetanus immunizations. Start/continue immunization for tetanus. Alternative antibiotics: meropenem; doxycycline, clindamycin.
Corynebacterium diphtheriae ⁷¹	Diphtheria	Diphtheria equine antitoxin (available through the CDC under an investigational protocol [www.cdc.gov/ diphtheria/dat.html; accessed September 27, 2022) AND erythromycin or penicillin G (AIII)	Antitoxin from the CDC Emergency Operations Center, 770/488-7100; protocol: www. cdc.gov/diphtheria/downloads/ protocol.pdf (version 10.0; June 9, 2022) (accessed September 27, 2022)
Corynebacterium jeikeium ^{72,73}	Sepsis, endocarditis, nosocomial infections	Vancomycin (AIII)	Daptomycin (emerging resistance reported), tigecycline, linezolid
Corynebacterium minutissimum ^{74,75}	Erythrasma; bacteremia in compromised hosts	Erythromycin or clindamycin PO for erythrasma (BIII); OR, for bacteremia, ⁷⁵ vancomycin OR penicillin IV (BIII)	Topical 1% clindamycin for cutaneous infection; meropenem, penicillin/ ampicillin, ciprofloxacin

Coxiella burnetii ^{76,77}	Q fever (See Q fever in Chapter 1, Table 1L.)	Acute infection: doxycycline (all ages) (All) Chronic infection or endocarditis (course not well-defined): doxycycline for children >7 y AND hydroxychloroquine for 18–36 mo	Alternative for acute infection: TMP/SMX Alternative for chronic infection: TMP/SMX AND doxycycline (BII); OR levofloxacin AND rifampin
Cutibacterium (formerly Propionibacterium) acnes ^{78,79}	In addition to acne, invasive infection: sepsis, postoperative wound/shunt infection	Penicillin G (AIII); vancomycin (AIII)	Ceftriaxone, doxycycline, clindamycin, linezolid, daptomycin Resistant to metronidazole
Ehrlichia chaffeensis, 14,80 muris ^{80,81}	Human monocytic ehrlichiosis	Doxycycline (all ages) (All)	Rifampin
Ehrlichia ewingii ^{14,80}	E ewingii ehrlichiosis	Doxycycline (all ages) (All)	Rifampin
Eikenella corrodens ^{82,83}	Human bite wounds; abscesses, meningitis, endocarditis	Amox/clav PO; ceftriaxone; meropenem/imipenem For beta-lactamase-negative strains: ampicillin; penicillin G (BIII)	Pip/tazo, amp/sul, ciprofloxacin Resistant to clindamycin, cephalexin, erythromycin
Elizabethkingia (formerly Chryseobacterium) meningoseptica ^{84,85}	Sepsis, meningitis (particularly in neonates)	Levofloxacin; TMP/SMX (BIII)	Pip/tazo, minocycline Add rifampin to another active drug.
Enterobacter spp ^{5,57,58,86-89}	Sepsis, pneumonia, wound infection, UTI	Cefepime; meropenem; pip/tazo (BII)	CAZ/AVI, ertapenem, imipenem, ceftriaxone AND gentamicin, TMP/SMX, ciprofloxacin Newly emerging carbapenem- resistant strains worldwide ⁸⁹

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Enterococcus spp ⁹⁰⁻⁹²	Endocarditis, UTI, intra-abdominal abscess	Ampicillin AND gentamicin (AI), OR vancomycin AND gentamicin (for ampicillin-resistant strains); bactericidal activity present only with combination Ampicillin AND ceftriaxone in combination also effective ^{92,93}	For strains resistant to gentamicin on synergy testing, use streptomycin or other active aminoglycoside for invasive infections. For vancomycinresistant strains that are also ampicillin resistant: daptomycin OR linezolid. 91,92
Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae ⁹⁴	Cellulitis (erysipeloid), sepsis, abscesses, endocarditis	Invasive infection: ampicillin (BIII); penicillin G; ceftriaxone, meropenem (BIII) Cutaneous infection: penicillin V; amoxicillin; cephalexin; clindamycin	Resistance to penicillin reported. Ciprofloxacin, erythromycin. Resistant to vancomycin, daptomycin, TMP/SMX.
Escherichia coli (See Chapter 1 for specific infection entities and references.) Increasing resistance to 3rd-generation cephalosporins due to ESBLs and to carbapenems due to carbapenemases (KPC)*5.88.89 (See Chapter 12.)	UTI, community acquired, not hospital acquired	A 1st-, 2nd-, or 3rd-generation cephalosporin PO, IM as empiric therapy (BI)	Amoxicillin; TMP/SMX if susceptible. Ciprofloxacin if resistant to other options. For hospital-acquired UTI, review hospital antibiogram for best empiric choices.
	Travelers diarrhea	Azithromycin (All)	Rifaximin (for nonfebrile, non- bloody diarrhea for children >11 y); cefixime
	Sepsis, pneumonia, hospital- acquired UTI	A 2nd-, 3rd-, or 4th-generation cephalosporin IV (BI)	For ESBL-producing strains: cefepime or meropenem (AIII) or other carbapenem; pip/tazo and ciprofloxacin if resistant to other antibiotics For KPC-producing strains: CAZ/AVI

	Meningitis	Ceftriaxone or cefepime (AIII)	For ESBL-producing strains: meropenem (AIII)	
Francisella tularensis ^{95,96}	Tularemia	Gentamicin (AII) for invasive disease	Convalescent PO therapy, or treatment of mild disease with doxycycline, ciprofloxacin. Resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics.	
Fusobacterium spp ^{97–99}	Sepsis, soft tissue infection, Lemierre syndrome	Metronidazole (AIII); meropenem; clindamycin (BIII)	Penicillin G, pip/tazo. Combinations often used for Lemierre syndrome. Anticoagulation for ongoing thromboembolic complications.	
Gardnerella vaginalis ^{51,100}	Bacterial vaginosis	Metronidazole (BII)	Tinidazole, clindamycin, metronidazole gel, clindamycin cream/gel	
Haemophilus ducreyi ⁵¹	Chancroid	Azithromycin (AllI); ceftriaxone (BlII)	Erythromycin, ciprofloxacin	

D. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC BACTERIAL AND MYCOBACTERIAL PATHOGENS (continued)			
Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Haemophilus influenzae ¹⁰¹	Nonencapsulated strains: upper respiratory tract infections	Beta-lactamase negative: ampicillin IV (AI); amoxicillin PO (AI) Beta-lactamase positive: ceftriaxone IV, IM (AI); amox/clav (AI) OR 2nd- or 3rd-generation cephalosporins PO (AI)	Levofloxacin, azithromycin, TMP/ SMX
	Type b strains in unimmunized children: meningitis, arthritis, cellulitis, epiglottitis, pneumonia	Beta-lactamase negative: ampicillin IV (AI); amoxicillin PO (AI) Beta-lactamase positive: ceftriaxone IV, IM (AI) or cefepime IV; amox/clav (AI) OR 2nd- or 3rd-generation cephalosporins PO (AI)	Other regimens: meropenem IV, levofloxacin IV Full IV course (10 days) for meningitis, but PO step-down therapy well-documented after response to treatment of non- CNS infections Levofloxacin PO as step-down therapy for beta-lactamase– positive strains
Helicobacter pylori ¹⁰²⁻¹⁰⁴	Gastritis, peptic ulcer	Triple-agent therapy: clarithromycin (susceptible strains) AND amoxicillin AND omeprazole (All); ADD metronidazole for suspected resistance to clarithromycin.	For clarithromycin/metronidazole resistance, tetracycline for children >7 y. Other regimens include bismuth in addition to other proton pump inhibitors.
Kingella kingae ^{105,106}	Osteomyelitis, arthritis	Ampicillin; penicillin G (All)	Ceftriaxone, TMP/SMX, cefuroxime, ceftaroline, ciprofloxacin. Resistant to clindamycin, vancomycin, linezolid.

Klebsiella spp (Klebsiella pneumoniae, oxytoca) ^{88,89,107–110} Increasing resistance to 3rd-generation cephalosporins (ESBLs) and carbapenems (KPC), as well as to colistin (See Chapter 12.)	UTI	A 2nd- or 3rd-generation cephalosporin (All)	Use most narrow spectrum agent active against pathogen: TMP/SMX, ciprofloxacin, gentamicin. ESBL producers should be treated with a carbapenem (meropenem, ertapenem, imipenem), but KPC (carbapenemase)-containing bacteria may require ciprofloxacin, CAZ/AVI, colistin. 108,109
	Sepsis, pneumonia, meningitis, hospital-acquired infection	Ceftriaxone; cefepime (AllI) For carbapenem-resistant KPC strains: CAZ/AVI, mero/vabor, or imipenem/relebactam. For carbapenem-resistant NDM strains, use aztreonam AND CAZ/AVI.	Carbapenem or ciprofloxacin if resistant to other routine antibiotics Meningitis caused by ESBL producer: meropenem if susceptible KPC (carbapenemase) producers: ciprofloxacin, colistin, OR CAZ/AVI (approved by FDA for children in 2019 and active against current strains of KPC ¹⁰⁸⁻¹¹⁰)
Klebsiella granulomatis ⁵¹	Granuloma inguinale	Azithromycin (All)	Doxycycline, TMP/SMX, ciprofloxacin
Legionella spp ¹¹¹	Legionnaires disease	Azithromycin (AI) OR levofloxacin (AII)	Erythromycin, clarithromycin, TMP/SMX, doxycycline
Leptospira spp ¹¹²	Leptospirosis	Penicillin G IV (All); ceftriaxone IV (All)	PO therapy: amoxicillin, doxycycline, azithromycin

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Leuconostoc ¹¹³	Bacteremia	Penicillin G (AllI); ampicillin (BIII)	Clindamycin, erythromycin, doxycycline (uniformly resistant to vancomycin)
Listeria monocytogenes ¹¹⁴	Sepsis, meningitis in compromised host; neonatal sepsis	Ampicillin (ADD gentamicin for severe infection, compromised hosts [new retrospective data in adults suggest no benefit from added gentamicin].) ¹¹⁵ (All)	Ampicillin AND TMP/SMX; ampicillin AND linezolid; levofloxacin
Moraxella catarrhalis ¹¹⁶	Otitis, sinusitis, bronchitis	Amox/clav (AI)	TMP/SMX; a 2nd- or 3rd-generation cephalosporin
Morganella morganii ^{57,58,87,117,118}	UTI, neonatal sepsis, wound infection	Cefepime (AIII); meropenem (AIII); levofloxacin (BIII)	Intrinsically resistant to penicillin/ ampicillin and colistin. Pip/tazo, ceftriaxone AND gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, TMP/ SMX. Has intrinsic inducible ampC beta- lactamase; 3rd-generation cephalosporins may be selected for resistance. New carbapenem-resistant strains with metallo-beta-lactamases that will require aztreonam AND CAZ/AVI now reported in Asia.

Mycobacterium abscessus ^{119–124} 3 subspecies now identified	Skin and soft tissue infections; pneumonia in cystic fibrosis

For localized skin/soft tissue: clarithromycin or azithromycin (with or without rifampin or ethambutol if susceptible) (AIII). For pneumonia: Initial phase for severe disease (3 drugs are now recommended): clarithromycin or azithromycin AND amikacin IV AND cefoxitin or imipenem IV. Continuation phase: nebulized amikacin AND azithromycin AND 1-3 of the following antibiotics guided by drug susceptibility results and patient tolerance: clofazimine, linezolid PO, minocycline PO, moxifloxacin PO, TMP/SMX PO.123 For less severe disease: azithromycin PO (or clarithromycin PO); ADD

ethambutol, AND rifampin, given 3 times weekly to prevent macrolide/azalide resistance.

Consider consulting an infectious disease physician. Should test for susceptibility to all possible antibiotic options listed as well as cefoxitin. May need pulmonary resection. Initial intensive phase of therapy followed by months of "maintenance" therapy.

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Mycobacterium avium complex ^{119,124,125}	Cervical adenitis	Clarithromycin (AII); azithromycin (AII)	Surgical excision is more likely than sole medical therapy to lead to cure. May increase cure rate with addition of rifampin or ethambutol.
	Pneumonia	For pneumonia, ADD rifampin AND ethambutol AND, for severe disease, amikacin (AIII). ¹²³	Depending on susceptibilities and severity of the illness, ADD amikacin \pm ciprofloxacin.
	Disseminated disease in competent host, or disease in immunocompromised host	Clarithromycin or azithromycin AND ethambutol AND rifampin (AIII), AND, for severe disease, amikacin	Depending on susceptibilities and severity of the illness, ADD additional agents.
Mycobacterium bovis ^{126–128}	Tuberculosis (historically not differentiated from Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection; causes adenitis, abdominal tuberculosis, meningitis)	INH AND rifampin (AII); ADD ethambutol for suspected resistance (AIII).	M bovis is always resistant to PZA. Consider ADDING streptomycin for severe infection.
Mycobacterium chelonae ^{119,129}	Abscesses; catheter infection	Clarithromycin or azithromycin (AIII); ADD amikacin for invasive disease, ± meropenem if susceptible (AIII).	Also test for susceptibility to tigecycline, TMP/SMX, doxycycline, tobramycin, imipenem (more active than meropenem), 129 moxifloxacin, linezolid.
Mycobacterium fortuitum complex ^{118,119,124,125,129}	Skin and soft tissue infections; catheter infection	Amikacin AND cefoxitin ± levofloxacin (AllI)	Also test for susceptibility to clarithromycin, imipenem, tigecycline, minocycline, sulfonamides, doxycycline, linezolid.

Mycobacterium leprae ¹³⁰	Leprosy	Dapsone AND rifampin for paucibacillary (1–5 patches) (AII). ADD clofazimine for lepromatous, multibacillary (>5 patches) disease (AII).	Consult HRSA (National Hansen's Disease [Leprosy] Program) at www.hrsa.gov/hansens-disease for advice about treatment and free antibiotics: 800/642-2477 (reviewed June 2021; accessed September 27, 2022).
Mycobacterium marinum/ balnei ^{119,131}	Papules, pustules, abscesses (swimming pool granuloma)	Clarithromycin ± ethambutol (AIII)	TMP/SMX AND rifampin; ethambutol AND rifampin, doxycycline ± 1 or 2 additional antibiotics Surgical debridement
Mycobacterium tuberculosis 126,132 (See Tuberculosis in Chapter 1, Table 1F, for detailed recommendations for active infection, latent infection, and exposures in high-risk children.)	Tuberculosis (pneumonia; meningitis; cervical adenitis; mesenteric adenitis; osteomyelitis)	For active infection in children without risk factors for resistance: INH AND rifampin AND PZA (AI); ADD ethambutol for suspected resistance. For latent infection: INH AND rifapentine once weekly for 12 wk (AII) OR rifampin daily for 4 mo, OR INH/rifampin combination daily (all ages) for 3 mo OR INH daily or biweekly for 9 mo (AII).	Add streptomycin for severe infection. For MDR tuberculosis, bedaquiline is FDA approved for adults and for children ≥5 y. The 3-drug PO combination of pretomanid, bedaquiline, and linezolid has orphan drug approval for MDR tuberculosis in adults, to be taken together for 26 wk. Corticosteroids should be added to regimens for meningitis, mesenteric adenitis, and endobronchial infection (AIII).
Mycoplasma hominis ^{133,134}	Neonatal infection including meningitis/ventriculitis; nongonococcal urethritis	Neonates: doxycycline; moxifloxacin Urethritis: clindamycin (AllI)	Usually erythromycin resistant

D. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC BACTERIAL AND MYCOBACTERIAL PATHOGENS (continued)				
Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives	
Mycoplasma pneumoniae ^{135,136}	Pneumonia	Azithromycin (Al); erythromycin (Bl); macrolide resistance emerging worldwide ¹³⁷	Doxycycline and fluoroquinolones are usually active against macrolide-susceptible and macrolide-resistant strains.	
Neisseria gonorrhoeae ^{51,138}	Gonorrhea; arthritis	Formerly, ceftriaxone AND azithromycin or doxycycline (Alll), but in 2020, due to increasing resistance to azithromycin (4% in adults), only ceftriaxone is now routinely recommended.	PO cefixime as single-drug therapy is no longer routinely recommended due to increasing resistance but can be used when ceftriaxone cannot. 138 Spectinomycin IM	
Neisseria meningitidis ^{139,140}	Sepsis, meningitis	Ceftriaxone (AI)	Penicillin G or ampicillin if susceptible with amoxicillin step-down therapy for non-CNS infection	
			For prophylaxis following exposure: rifampin or ciprofloxacin (ciprofloxacinresistant strains have now been reported). Azithromycin may be less effective.	
Nocardia asteroides or brasiliensis ^{141,142}	Pneumonia with abscess, cutaneous cellulitis/abscess, brain abscess	TMP/SMX (All); sulfisoxazole (BlI); for severe infection, ADD imipenem or meropenem AND amikacin (All).	Linezolid, ceftriaxone, clarithromycin, minocycline, levofloxacin, tigecycline, amox/ clav	

Pasteurella multocida ^{143,144}	Sepsis, abscesses, animal bite wound	Penicillin G (AIII); ampicillin (AIII); amoxicillin (AIII)	Amox/clav, pip/tazo, doxycycline, ceftriaxone, cefpodoxime, cefuroxime, TMP/SMX, levofloxacin. Cephalexin may not demonstrate adequate activity. Not usually susceptible to clindamycin or erythromycin.
Peptostreptococcus ¹⁴⁵	Sepsis, deep head/neck space and intra-abdominal infection	Penicillin G (All); ampicillin (All)	Clindamycin, vancomycin, meropenem, imipenem, metronidazole
Plesiomonas shigelloides ^{146,147}	Diarrhea, neonatal sepsis, meningitis	Antibiotics may not be necessary to treat diarrhea: ciprofloxacin (BIII); 2nd- and 3rd-generation cephalosporins (AIII); azithromycin (BIII). For meningitis/sepsis: ceftriaxone.	Meropenem, amox/clav Increasing resistance to TMP/SMX
Prevotella (formerly Bacteroides) spp, ¹⁴⁸ melaninogenica	Deep head/neck space abscess; dental abscess	Metronidazole (All); meropenem or imipenem (All)	Pip/tazo, cefoxitin, clindamycin, tigecycline
Propionibacterium (now Cutibacterium) acnes ^{78,79}	In addition to acne, invasive infection: sepsis, postoperative wound/shunt infection	Penicillin G (AIII); vancomycin (AIII)	Ceftriaxone, doxycycline, clindamycin, linezolid, daptomycin Resistant to metronidazole

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Proteus mirabilis ¹⁴⁹	UTI, sepsis, meningitis	Ceftriaxone (AII) for ESBL-negative strains; cefepime; ciprofloxacin; gentamicin PO therapy: amox/clav; TMP/SMX, ciprofloxacin	Carbapenem; pip/tazo; cefiderocol; increasing resistance to ampicillin, TMP/ SMX, and fluoroquinolones, particularly in nosocomial isolates Rarely contain plasmid-mediated ampC beta-lactamase Colistin resistant
Proteus vulgaris, other spp (indole- positive strains) ^{4-6,57,58,88}	UTI, sepsis, meningitis	Cefepime; ciprofloxacin; gentamicin (BIII); meropenem for ESBL producers Potential ampC hyper-producer (and some strains with ESBLs), so at risk for resistance to 3rd-generation cephalosporins	Imipenem, ertapenem, TMP/SMX, cefiderocol, CAZ/AVI for carbapenem resistance Colistin resistant
Providencia spp ^{57,58,150}	Sepsis	Cefepime; ciprofloxacin, pip/tazo, gentamicin (BIII)	Meropenem or other carbapenem for ESBL producer; TMP/SMX; CAZ/AVI for carbapenem resistance Colistin and tigecycline resistant
Pseudomonas aeruginosa ^{151–154}	UTI	Cefepime (All); other antipseudomonal beta-lactams; tobramycin	Amikacin, ciprofloxacin

	Nosocomial sepsis, pneumonia	Cefepime (AI), OR meropenem (AI), OR pip/tazo AND tobramycin (BI), OR ceftazidime AND tobramycin (BII)	Ciprofloxacin AND tobramycin; cefiderocol; colistin. ⁵⁷ There is controversy regarding additional clinical benefit in outcomes when newer, more potent beta-lactams are used over aminoglycoside combinations, but combinations may increase the likelihood of empiric active coverage and decrease the emergence of resistance. ^{155,156} Prolonged infusion of beta-lactam antibiotics will allow greater therapeutic exposure to high-MIC pathogens.
	Pneumonia in cystic fibrosis ¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁶⁰ (See Cystic Fibrosis in Chapter 1, Table 1F.)	Cefepime (All) or meropenem (Al); OR ceftazidime AND tobramycin (Bll) (Al). Azithromycin provides benefit in prolonging interval between exacerbations.	Inhalational antibiotics for prevention of acute exacerbations (but insufficient evidence to recommend for treatment of exacerbation): tobramycin; aztreonam; colistin. Many organisms are MDR; consider ciprofloxacin or colistin parenterally; in vitro synergy testing may suggest effective combinations.
Pseudomonas cepacia, mallei, or p	seudomallei (See Burkholderia entries e	arlier in this table.)	
Rhodococcus equi ¹⁶¹	Necrotizing pneumonia	Vancomycin AND imipenem for immunocompromised hosts, single-drug therapy for normal hosts (AIII)	Ciprofloxacin or levofloxacin AND azithromycin or rifampin; doxycycline; linezolid

Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Rickettsia ^{162,163}	Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Q fever, typhus, rickettsialpox, Ehrlichia infection, Anaplasma infection	Doxycycline (all ages) (All)	Chloramphenicol is less effective than doxycycline. A single course of doxycycline is not associated with detectable dental staining.
Salmonella, non-Typhi strains ^{164–166}	Gastroenteritis (may not require therapy if clinically improving and not immunocompromised). Consider treatment for those with higher risk for invasion (<1 y [or, with highest risk, those <3 mo], immunocompromised, and with focal infections or bacteremia).	Azithromycin (All) or ceftriaxone (All); cefixime (All)	For susceptible strains when culture results available: ciprofloxacin; TMP/SMX; ampicillin
Salmonella Typhi ^{165,167,168}	Typhoid fever	Azithromycin (All); ceftriaxone (All); TMP/SMX (All); ciprofloxacin (All)	Obtain blood and stool cultures before treatment to allow for selection of most narrow spectrum antibiotic. Prefer antibiotics with high intracellular concentrations (eg, TMP/SMX, fluoroquinolones). Amoxicillin acceptable for susceptible strains.

Serratia marcescens ^{57,58,87-89}	Nosocomial sepsis, pneumonia	Cefepime; meropenem; pip/tazo (BII) Potential ampC hyper-producer (and some strains with ESBLs), so at risk for resistance to 3rd-generation cephalosporins	One of the enteric bacilli that have inducible chromosomal ampC beta-lactamases (active against 2nd- and 3rd-generation cephalosporins) that may be constitutively produced by
			organisms within a population; ertapenem, imipenem, TMP/ SMX, ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone AND gentamicin Resistant to colistin
Shewanella spp169,170	Wound infection, nosocomial pneumonia, peritoneal-dialysis peritonitis, ventricular shunt infection, neonatal sepsis	Ceftazidime (AIII); gentamicin (AIII)	Ampicillin, meropenem, pip/tazo, ciprofloxacin Resistant to TMP/SMX and colistin
Shigella spp ¹⁷¹⁻¹⁷⁴	Enteritis, UTI, prepubertal vaginitis	Ceftriaxone (AII); ciprofloxacin ¹⁷⁴ (AII); azithromycin ¹⁷⁴ (AII); cefixime (AII)	Substantial (30%) resistance to azithromycin now reported in the United States. ¹⁷⁴ Use most narrow spectrum agent active against pathogen: PO ampicillin (not amoxicillin for enteritis); TMP/SMX.
Sphingomonas paucimobilis 175,176	Bacteremia, wound infection, ocular infection, osteomyelitis	Antipseudomonal penicillins, carbapenems (BIII)	Aminoglycosides, TMP/SMX
Spirillum minus ¹⁷⁷	Rat-bite fever (sodoku)	Penicillin G IV (All); for endocarditis, ADD gentamicin or streptomycin (AllI).	Ampicillin, doxycycline, ceftriaxone, vancomycin, streptomycin

D. PREFERRED THERAPY FO	R SPECIFIC BACTERIAL AND M	MYCOBACTERIAL PATHOGENS	(continued)
Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Staphylococcus aureus (See Chapter	1 for specific infections.) ^{178,179}		
– Mild to moderate infections	Skin infections, mild to moderate	MSSA: a 1st-generation cephalosporin (cefazolin IV, cephalexin PO) (AI); oxacillin/ nafcillin IV (AI), dicloxacillin PO (AI) MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) IV or PO, ceftaroline IV, 180 vancomycin IV, or TMP/SMX PO (AII)	For MSSA: amox/clav. For CA-MRSA: linezolid IV, PO; daptomycin IV has been studied and FDA approved for use in children >1 y. ¹⁸¹
– Moderate to severe infections, empiric treatment of CA-MRSA	Pneumonia, sepsis, myositis, osteomyelitis, etc	MSSA: oxacillin/nafcillin IV (AI); a 1st-generation cephalosporin (cefazolin IV) (AI) ± gentamicin (AIII) MRSA: clindamycin (if susceptible) (AII) OR ceftaroline (AII) OR vancomycin if MIC is ≤2 (AII) ¹⁸² Combination therapy with gentamicin and/or rifampin not prospectively studied	For CA-MRSA: linezolid (All); OR daptomycin ¹⁸³ for non-pulmonary infection (All) (studies published in children); ceftaroline IV (FDA approved for children) Approved for adults (primarily for treatment of MRSA): dalbavancin (once-weekly dosing), oritavancin (once-weekly dosing), tedizolid (See Chapter 12.)
Staphylococcus, coagulase negative 184,185	Nosocomial bacteremia (neonatal bacteremia), infected intravascular catheters, CNS shunts, UTI	Empiric: vancomycin (AII) OR ceftaroline (AII)	If susceptible: nafcillin (or other antistaphylococcal beta-lactam); rifampin (in combination); clindamycin, linezolid; ceftaroline IV; daptomycin for age >1 y (but not for pneumonia)

Stenotrophomonas maltophilia ^{186–188}	Sepsis	TMP/SMX (AII)	Ceftazidime, levofloxacin, doxycycline, minocycline, tigecycline, and colistin, and as of 2020, cefiderocol is approved for adults. 188
Streptobacillus moniliformis ^{177,189}	Rat-bite fever (Haverhill fever)	Penicillin G (AllI); ampicillin (AllI); for endocarditis, ADD gentamicin or streptomycin (AllI).	Doxycycline, ceftriaxone, carbapenems, clindamycin, vancomycin
Streptococcus, group A ¹⁹⁰	Pharyngitis, impetigo, adenitis, cellulitis, necrotizing fasciitis	Penicillin (AI); amoxicillin (AI)	A 1st-generation cephalosporin (cefazolin or cephalexin) (AI), clindamycin (AI), a macrolide (AI), vancomycin (AIII). For recurrent streptococcal pharyngitis, clindamycin or amox/clav, or the addition of rifampin to the last 4 days of penicillin therapy (AIII). The addition of clindamycin may decrease toxin production in overwhelming infection.
Streptococcus, group B ¹⁹¹	Neonatal sepsis, pneumonia, meningitis	Penicillin (All) or ampicillin (All)	Gentamicin is used initially for presumed synergy for group B streptococcus until a clinical/microbiological response has been documented (AlII).

D. PREFERRED THERAPY FO	R SPECIFIC BACTERIAL AND N	IYCOBACTERIAL PATHOGENS	(continued)
Organism	Clinical Illness	Drug of Choice (evidence grade)	Alternatives
Streptococcus, milleri/anginosus group (Streptococcus intermedius, anginosus, and constellatus; includes some ß-hemolytic group C and group G streptococci) ^{192,193}	Pneumonia, sepsis, skin and soft tissue infection, ^{192,193} sinusitis, ¹⁹⁴ arthritis, brain abscess, epidural abscess, subdural empyema, meningitis	Penicillin G (AIII); ampicillin (AIII); ADD gentamicin for serious infection (AIII); ceftriaxone. Many strains show decreased susceptibility to penicillin, requiring higher dosages to achieve adequate antibiotic exposure, particularly in the CNS.	Clindamycin, vancomycin Potential for PO step-down therapy for intracranial complications with fluoroquinolones ¹⁹⁵
Streptococcus, viridans group (a-hemolytic streptococci, most commonly Streptococcus sanguinis, oralis [mitis], salivarius, mutans, morbillorum)	Endocarditis ¹⁹⁶ ; oropharyngeal, deep head/neck space infections	Penicillin G \pm gentamicin (All) OR ceftriaxone \pm gentamicin (All)	Vancomycin
Streptococcus pneumoniae ^{197–199} With widespread use of conjugate pneumococcal vaccines, antibiotic resistance in pneumococci has decreased. ¹⁹⁹	Sinusitis, otitis ²⁰⁰	Amoxicillin, high-dose (90 mg/kg/day div bid) (All); standard dose (40–45 mg/kg/day div tid) is now likely to be effective in otherwise healthy children following widespread use of PCV13 vaccines. 198,199	Amox/clav, cefdinir, cefpodoxime, cefuroxime, clindamycin, OR ceftriaxone IM
	Meningitis	Ceftriaxone (AI); vancomycin is no longer required for possible ceftriaxone resistance; ceftriaxone-resistant strains have not been reported to cause meningitis in the post-PCV13 era (AIII).	Penicillin G alone for pen-S strains; ceftriaxone alone for ceftriaxone-susceptible strains

	Pneumonia, osteomyelitis/ arthritis, 197,199 sepsis	Ampicillin (All); ceftriaxone (Al)	Penicillin G alone for pen-S strains; ceftriaxone alone for ceftriaxone-susceptible strains
Treponema pallidum ^{51,200}	Syphilis (See chapters 1 and 2.)	Penicillin G (All)	Desensitize to penicillin preferred to alternative therapies. Doxycycline, ceftriaxone.
Ureaplasma urealyticum ^{51,201}	Genitourinary infections	Azithromycin (All)	Erythromycin; doxycycline, ofloxacin (for adolescent genital infections)
	Neonatal pneumonia	Azithromycin (AllI) (effective clearing of <i>U urealyticum</i> in preterm neonates demonstrated, but randomized trial to treat pneumonia not yet performed ²⁰¹)	
Vibrio cholerae ^{202,203}	Cholera	Doxycycline (Al)	A single treatment course of doxycycline is not associated with tooth staining. If susceptible, azithromycin (AII): ciprofloxacin (AII), TMP/SMX.
Vibrio vulnificus ^{204–206}	Sepsis, necrotizing fasciitis	Doxycycline AND ceftazidime (AII)	Ciprofloxacin AND ceftriaxone
Yersinia enterocolitica ^{207,208}	Diarrhea, mesenteric enteritis, reactive arthritis, sepsis	TMP/SMX for enteritis (AIII); ceftriaxone or ciprofloxacin for invasive infection (AIII)	Gentamicin, doxycycline
Yersinia pestis ^{209–211}	Plague	Gentamicin (AII) OR levofloxacin (AII)	Doxycycline, ciprofloxacin
Yersinia pseudotuberculosis ²⁰⁷	Mesenteric adenitis; Far East scarlet-like fever ²¹² ; reactive arthritis	Ceftriaxone, TMP/SMX, or ciprofloxacin (AIII)	Gentamicin

4. Choosing Among Antibiotics Within a Class: Beta-lactams and Beta-lactamase Inhibitors, Macrolides, Aminoglycosides, and Fluoroquinolones

Antibiotics should be compared with others regarding (1) antimicrobial spectrum; (2) degree of antibiotic exposure (a function of the pharmacokinetics of the nonprotein-bound drug at the site of infection and the pharmacodynamic properties of the drug); (3) demonstrated efficacy in adequate and well-controlled clinical trials; (4) tolerance, toxicity, and side effects; and (5) cost. When a new antibiotic is approved, it is helpful to compare the new agent with other agents, particularly those in a class of antibiotics already approved for children. If there is no substantial benefit for efficacy or safety for one antimicrobial over another for the isolated or presumed bacterial pathogen(s), one should opt for using an older, more extensively used agent (with presumably better-defined efficacy and safety) that is usually less expensive and is preferably narrower in its spectrum of activity.

Beta-lactams and Beta-lactamase Inhibitors

Beta-lactam (BL)/Beta-lactamase Inhibitor (BLI) Combinations. Increasingly studied and approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are BL/BLI combinations that target antibiotic resistance for pathogens with resistance to current BLs based on the presence of many newly emerging beta-lactamases. The BL antibiotic may have initially demonstrated activity against a pathogen, but if a new beta-lactamase is present in that pathogen, it will hydrolyze the BL ring structure and inactivate the antibiotic. The BLI is usually a BL structure, which explains why it binds readily to certain beta-lactamases and can inhibit their activity; however, the BLI does not usually demonstrate direct antibiotic activity itself (although some BLIs with activity are currently in clinical trials). Just as different BL antibiotics bind bacterial target sites with varying affinity (creating a range of susceptibilities based on their ability to bind and inhibit function), different BLIs will bind the different bacterial beta-lactamases with varying affinity. A BLI that binds well to the *Haemophilus influenzae* beta-lactamase may not bind to and inhibit a *Staphy*lococcus aureus beta-lactamase or may not bind well to one of the many Pseudomonas beta-lactamases. As amoxicillin and ampicillin were used extensively against H influenzae following their approval, resistance increased based on the presence of a beta-lactamase that hydrolyzes the BL ring of amoxicillin/ampicillin (with up to 40% of isolates still demonstrating resistance in some regions). Clavulanate, a BLI that binds to and inactivates the H influenzae beta-lactamase, allows amoxicillin/ampicillin to "survive" and inhibit cell wall formation, leading to the death of the organism. The first oral BL/BLI combination of amoxicillin/clavulanate, originally known as Augmentin, has been very effective. Similar combinations, primarily intravenous (IV), have now been studied, pairing penicillins, cephalosporins, and carbapenems with other BLIs such as tazobactam, sulbactam, and avibactam, as well as new investigational BLIs such as vaborbactam and relebactam.

Beta-lactam Antibiotics

Oral Cephalosporins (cephalexin, cefadroxil, cefaclor, cefprozil, cefuroxime, cefixime, cefdinir, cefpodoxime, cefditoren [tablet only], and ceftibuten). As a class, the oral cephalosporins have the advantage over oral penicillins of somewhat greater spectrum of activity. The serum half-lives of cefpodoxime, ceftibuten, and cefixime are greater than 2 hours. This pharmacokinetic feature accounts for the fact that they may be given in 1 or 2 doses per day for certain indications, particularly otitis media in which the middle ear fluid half-life is likely to be much longer than the serum half-life and urinary tract infections because of the renal elimination of most of these antibiotics. For more resistant pathogens, twice daily is preferred (see Chapter 11). The spectrum of activity for gram-negative organisms increases as one goes from the first-generation cephalosporins (cephalexin and cefadroxil), to the second generation (cefaclor, cefprozil, and cefuroxime) that demonstrates activity against *H influenzae* (including beta-lactamase-producing strains), to the third generation (cefixime, cefdinir, cefpodoxime, cefditoren, and ceftibuten) that has enhanced coverage of many enteric gram-negative bacilli (eg, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella spp). However, ceftibuten and cefixime, in particular, have a disadvantage of less activity against Streptococcus pneumoniae than the others, particularly against penicillin non-susceptible strains. No oral current cephalosporins exist with activity against the extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) of E coli/Klebsiella, Pseudomonas, or methicillin-resistant S aureus (MRSA).

Parenteral Cephalosporins. First-generation cephalosporins, such as cefazolin, are used mainly for treatment of gram-positive infections caused by *S aureus* (excluding MRSA) and group A streptococcus and for surgical prophylaxis; the gram-negative spectrum is limited but more extensive than ampicillin. Cefazolin is well tolerated on intramuscular or IV injection.

A second-generation cephalosporin (cefuroxime) and the cephamycins (cefoxitin and cefotetan) provide increased activity against many gram-negative organisms, particularly *H influenzae* and *E coli*. Cefoxitin has additional activity against up to 80% of strains of *Bacteroides fragilis*. In empiric therapy for mild to moderate infections at low risk of being caused by *B fragilis*, cefoxitin can be considered for use in place of the more active agents such as metronidazole or carbapenems.

Third-generation cephalosporins (ceftriaxone and ceftazidime) all have enhanced potency against many enteric gram-negative bacilli. As with all cephalosporins, though, they are less active against enterococci and *Listeria* at readily achievable serum concentrations. Only ceftazidime has significant activity against *Pseudomonas*. Ceftriaxone has been used very successfully to treat meningitis caused by pneumococcus (mostly penicillinsusceptible strains), *H influenzae* type b, meningococcus, and susceptible strains of *E coli* meningitis. The drug has the greatest usefulness for treating gram-negative bacillary infections due to their safety, compared with other classes of antibiotics (including aminoglycosides). Because ceftriaxone is excreted to a large extent via the liver, it can be used

with little dosage adjustment in patients with renal failure. With a serum half-life of 4 to 7 hours, it can be given once a day for all infections, including meningitis, that are caused by susceptible organisms.

Cefepime, a fourth-generation cephalosporin approved for use in children in 1999, exhibits (1) enhanced antipseudomonal activity over ceftazidime; (2) the gram-positive activity of second-generation cephalosporins; (3) better activity than earlier generations against gram-negative enteric bacilli; and (4) stability against the inducible ampC beta-lactamases of *Enterobacter* and *Serratia* (and some strains of *Proteus* and *Citrobacter*) that can hydrolyze third-generation cephalosporins. It can be used as single-drug antibiotic therapy against these pathogens, rather than paired with an aminoglycoside, as is commonly done with third-generation cephalosporins designed to decrease the emergence of ampC-resistant strains. However, cefepime is hydrolyzed by many of the most widely circulating ESBL enzymes (and carbapenemases) and should not be used if an ESBL *E coli* or *Klebsiella* is suspected.

Ceftaroline is a fifth-generation cephalosporin, the first of the cephalosporins with activity against MRSA. Ceftaroline was approved by the FDA for adults in 2010, approved for children in 2016 for treatment of complicated skin infections (including MRSA) and community-acquired pneumonia, and approved for neonates in 2019. The pharmacokinetics of ceftaroline have been evaluated in all pediatric age-groups, including neonates, and in children with cystic fibrosis; clinical studies for pediatric community-acquired pneumonia and complicated skin infection are published. ^{1,2} Based on these published data and postmarketing experience for infants and children, we believe that ceftaroline should be as effective as and safer than vancomycin for treatment of MRSA infections. Just as BLs such as cefazolin are preferred over vancomycin for methicillin-susceptible *S aureus* infections, ceftaroline should be considered preferred treatment over vancomycin for MRSA infection. Neither renal function nor drug levels need to be followed with ceftaroline therapy. Limited pharmacokinetic and clinical data also support the use of ceftaroline in neonates in which coagulase-negative staphylococci are the most common pathogens causing catheter-related bloodstream infections.

Cefiderocol³ is an advanced-spectrum cephalosporin, recently approved for adults with complicated urinary tract infections (cUTIs), and nosocomial pneumonia (including ventilator-associated pneumonia), with a unique mechanism of entry into bacterial cells. It covers some difficult multidrug-resistant gram-negative pathogens, including *Acineto-bacter, Pseudomonas*, and *Stenotrophomonas*, so we are looking forward to reviewing pediatric data when available, hopefully next year. Both COVID-19 and events in Ukraine, where many antibiotics are very capably studied, have caused unavoidable delays in pediatric clinical trials.

Penicillinase-Resistant Penicillins (dicloxacillin [capsules only]; nafcillin and oxacillin [parenteral only]). "Penicillinase" refers specifically to the beta-lactamase produced by *S aureus* in this case and not those produced by gram-negative bacteria. These antibiotics are active against penicillin-resistant *S aureus* but not against MRSA. Nafcillin differs

pharmacologically from the others because it is excreted primarily by the liver rather than by the kidneys, which may explain the relative lack of nephrotoxicity when this penicillin is compared with methicillin, which is no longer available in the United States. Nafcillin pharmacokinetics are erratic in persons with liver disease, and the drug often causes phlebitis with IV infusion.

Antipseudomonal and Anti-enteric Gram-negative BLs (piperacillin/tazobactam, aztreonam, ceftazidime, cefepime, meropenem, imipenem, and ertapenem). Piperacillin/ tazobactam (Zosyn) and ceftazidime/avibactam (Avycaz) (both FDA approved for children), and, still under investigation in children, ceftolozane/tazobactam (Zerbaxa), imipenem/relebactam (Recarbrio), and meropenem/vaborbactam (Vabomere), represent BL/BLI combinations, as noted previously. The BLI (clavulanic acid, tazobactam, avibactam, or vaborbactam in these combinations) binds irreversibly to and neutralizes specific beta-lactamase enzymes produced by the organism. The combination adds to the spectrum of the original antibiotic only when the mechanism of resistance is a beta-lactamase enzyme and only when the BLI is capable of binding to and inhibiting that particular organism's beta-lactamase enzyme(s). The combinations extend the spectrum of activity of the primary antibiotic to include many beta-lactamase-positive bacteria, including some strains of enteric gram-negative bacilli (E coli, Klebsiella, and Enterobacter), S aureus, and B fragilis. Piperacillin/tazobactam, ceftolozane/tazobactam, ceftazidime/ avibactam, and imipenem/relebactam may still be inactive against *Pseudomonas* because many other non-beta-lactamase mechanisms of resistance may also be active.

Pseudomonas has an intrinsic capacity to develop resistance following exposure to any BL, based on the activity of several inducible chromosomal beta-lactamases, upregulated efflux pumps, and changes in the permeability of the cell wall, as well as mutational changes in the antibacterial target sites. Because development of resistance during therapy is somewhat common (particularly beta-lactamase-mediated resistance against ceftazidime), an aminoglycoside such as tobramycin is often used in combination, assuming that the tobramycin may kill strains developing resistance to the BLs. Cefepime, meropenem, and imipenem are relatively stable to the beta-lactamases induced while a patient is receiving therapy and can be used as single-agent therapy for most Pseudomonas infections, but resistance may still develop to these agents based on other mechanisms of resistance. For *Pseudomonas* infections in compromised hosts or in life-threatening infections, these drugs, too, should be used in combination with an aminoglycoside or a second active agent. The benefits of the additional antibiotic should be weighed against the potential for additional toxicity and alteration of host flora.

Aminopenicillins (amoxicillin and amoxicillin/clavulanate [oral formulations only, in the United States], ampicillin [oral and parenteral], and ampicillin/sulbactam [parenteral only]). Amoxicillin is very well absorbed, good tasting, and associated with very few side effects. Augmentin is a combination of amoxicillin and clavulanate (as noted previously) that is available in several fixed proportions that permit amoxicillin to remain active against many beta-lactamase-producing bacteria, including H influenzae and S aureus (but not MRSA). Amoxicillin/clavulanate has undergone many changes in formulation

since its introduction. The ratio of amoxicillin to clavulanate was originally 4:1, based on susceptibility data of pneumococcus and *Haemophilus* during the 1970s. With the emergence of penicillin-resistant pneumococcus, recommendations for increasing the dosage of amoxicillin were made, particularly for upper respiratory tract infections. However, if one increases the dosage of clavulanate even slightly, the incidence of diarrhea increases dramatically. By keeping the dosage of clavulanate constant while increasing the dosage of amoxicillin, one can treat the relatively resistant pneumococci while not increasing gastrointestinal side effects of the combination. The original 4:1 ratio is present in suspensions containing 125 and 250 mg of amoxicillin per 5 mL and the 125- and 250-mg chewable tablets. A higher 7:1 ratio is present in the suspensions containing 200 and 400 mg of amoxicillin per 5 mL and in the 200- and 400-mg chewable tablets. A still higher ratio of 14:1 is present in the suspension formulation Augmentin ES-600 that contains 600 mg of amoxicillin per 5 mL; this preparation is designed to deliver 90 mg/kg/day of amoxicillin, divided twice daily, for the treatment of ear (and sinus) infections. The high serum and middle ear fluid concentrations achieved with 45 mg/kg/dose, combined with the long middle ear fluid half-life (4–6 hours) of amoxicillin, allow for a therapeutic antibiotic exposure to pathogens in the middle ear with a twice-daily regimen. However, the prolonged half-life in the middle ear fluid is not necessarily found in other infection sites (eg, skin, lung tissue, joint tissue), for which dosing of amoxicillin and Augmentin should continue to be 3 times daily for most susceptible pathogens.

For older children who can swallow tablets, the amoxicillin to clavulanate ratios are as follows: 500-mg tablet (4:1); 875-mg tablet (7:1); 1,000-mg tablet (16:1).

Sulbactam, another BLI like clavulanate, is combined with ampicillin in the parenteral formulation Unasyn. The relatively narrow spectrum of activity of ampicillin against enteric bacilli limits the activity of this combination, compared with the more broad spectrum of activity of agents such as piperacillin and ceftazidime when used in BL/BLI combinations. Sulbactam inhibits only beta-lactamases that prevent ampicillin from killing these gram-negative bacilli; it does not increase the spectrum of activity beyond what ampicillin can potentially achieve.

Carbapenems. Meropenem, imipenem, and ertapenem are currently available carbapenems with a broader spectrum of activity than of any other class of BL currently available. Meropenem, imipenem, and ertapenem are approved by the FDA for use in children. At present, we recommend them for treatment of infections caused by bacteria resistant to standard therapy or for mixed infections involving aerobes and anaerobes. Imipenem has greater central nervous system (CNS) irritability than other carbapenems, leading to an increased risk for seizures in children with meningitis, but this is not clinically significant in children without underlying CNS inflammation. Meropenem was not associated with an increased rate of seizures, compared with cefotaxime in children with meningitis. Imipenem and meropenem are active against virtually all coliform bacilli, including ceftriaxone-resistant (ESBL- or ampC-producing) strains; against *Pseudomonas aeru-ginosa* (including most ceftazidime-resistant strains); and against anaerobes, including

B fragilis. While ertapenem lacks the excellent activity against P aeruginosa of the other carbapenems, it has the advantage of a prolonged serum half-life, which allows for oncedaily dosing in adults and children 13 years and older and twice-daily dosing in younger children. Newly emerging strains of Klebsiella pneumoniae (and E coli) may contain K pneumoniae carbapenemases (KPC) that degrade and inactivate all the carbapenems. Less common in North America are the New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM)–carrying enteric bacilli (E coli and Klebsiella) that are also resistant to carbapenems. Multidrugresistant strains have spread to many parts of the world, reinforcing the need to keep track of your local antibiotic susceptibility patterns. Carbapenems have been paired with BLIs (eg, vaborbactam, relebactam) that inhibit KPC but do not inhibit the metallo-beta-lactamase enzymes. New BLIs that can inhibit NDM are under investigation.

Macrolides

Erythromycin is the prototype of macrolide antibiotics. Almost 30 macrolides have been produced, but only 3 are FDA approved for children in the United States: erythromycin, azithromycin (also called an "azalide"), and clarithromycin, while a fourth, telithromycin (also called a "ketolide"), is approved for adults and available only in tablet form. As a class, these drugs achieve greater concentrations intracellularly than in serum, particularly with azithromycin and clarithromycin. As a result, measuring serum concentrations is usually not clinically useful. Gastrointestinal intolerance to erythromycin is caused by the breakdown products of the macrolide. This is much less of a problem with azithromycin and clarithromycin. Azithromycin, clarithromycin, and telithromycin extend the clinically relevant activity of erythromycin to include *Haemophilus*; azithromycin and clarithromycin also have substantial activity against certain mycobacteria. Azithromycin is also active in vitro and effective against many enteric gram-negative pathogens, including Salmonella and Shigella, when given orally. For many infections, the ability of azithromycin to concentrate intracellularly with drug accumulation over multiple doses allows dosing just once daily for 3 to 5 days to create site-of-infection concentrations that are equivalent to 7 to 10 days for more traditionally eliminated antibiotics.

Aminoglycosides

Although 5 aminoglycoside antibiotics are available in the United States, only 3 are widely used for systemic therapy of aerobic gram-negative infections and for synergy in the treatment of certain gram-positive and gram-negative infections: gentamicin, tobramycin, and amikacin. Streptomycin and kanamycin have more limited utility than the other agents due to increased toxicity. Resistance in gram-negative bacilli to aminoglycosides is caused by bacterial enzymes that adenylate, acetylate, or phosphorylate the aminoglycoside, resulting in inactivity. The specific activities of each enzyme against each aminoglycoside in each pathogen are highly variable. As a result, antibiotic susceptibility tests must be done for each aminoglycoside drug separately. There are small differences in toxicities to the kidneys and eighth cranial nerve hearing/vestibular function, although it is uncertain whether these small differences are clinically significant. For all children receiving a full treatment course of a week or more, it is advisable to monitor peak and trough serum

concentrations early in the course of therapy, as the degree of drug exposure correlates with toxicity and the elevated trough concentrations may predict impending drug accumulation. With amikacin, desired peak concentrations are 20 to 35 mcg/mL and trough drug concentrations are less than 10 mcg/mL; for gentamicin and tobramycin, depending on the frequency of dosing, peak concentrations should be 5 to 10 mcg/mL and trough concentrations less than 2 mcg/mL. In the past, children with cystic fibrosis have required greater dosages to achieve equivalent therapeutic serum concentrations due to enhanced clearance, although with improvements in nutrition and pulmonary function over the past decade, the differences are less prominent. Inhaled tobramycin has been very successful in children with cystic fibrosis as an adjunctive therapy for gram-negative bacillary infections. The role of inhaled aminoglycosides in other gram-negative pneumonias (eg, ventilator-associated pneumonia) has not yet been defined.

Once-Daily Dosing of Aminoglycosides. Once-daily dosing of 5 to 7.5 mg/kg of gentamicin or tobramycin has been studied in adults and in some neonates and children; peak serum concentrations are greater than those achieved with dosing 3 times daily. Aminoglycosides demonstrate concentration-dependent killing of pathogens, suggesting a potential benefit to higher serum concentrations achieved with once-daily dosing. Regimens giving the daily dosage as a single infusion (rather than as traditionally split doses every 8 hours) are effective and safe for normal adults and immunocompromised hosts with fever and neutropenia and may be less toxic than 8-hourly dosing. Experience with once-daily dosing in children is increasing, with similar encouraging results as noted for adults. A recent Cochrane review for children (and adults) with cystic fibrosis comparing once-daily with 3-times—daily administration showed equal efficacy with decreased toxicity in children. Once-daily dosing should be considered as effective as multiple, smaller doses per day and is likely to be safer for children; therefore, it should be the preferred regimen for treatment.

Fluoroquinolones

Fluoroquinolone (FQ) toxicity to cartilage in weight-bearing joints of experimental juvenile animals was first documented to be dose and duration-of-therapy dependent more than 40 years ago. Pediatric studies were therefore not initially undertaken with ciprofloxacin or other FQs. However, with increasing antibiotic resistance in pediatric pathogens and an accumulating database in pediatrics suggesting that joint toxicity may be uncommon, the FDA allowed prospective studies to proceed in 1998. As of July 2021, no cases of FQ-attributable joint toxicity have been documented to occur in children with FQs that are approved for use in the United States. Limited published data are available from prospective, blinded studies to accurately assess this risk, although some retrospective published data are reassuring.⁴ A prospective, randomized, double-blind study of moxifloxacin for intra-abdominal infection, with 1-year follow-up specifically designed to assess tendon/joint toxicity, demonstrated no concern for toxicity.⁵ Unblinded studies with levofloxacin for respiratory tract infections and unpublished randomized studies comparing ciprofloxacin with other agents for cUTI suggest the possibility of an uncommon, reversible FQ-attributable arthralgia, but these data should be interpreted with

caution. The use of FQs in situations of antibiotic resistance where no other active agent is available is reasonable, while weighing the benefits of treatment against the low risk for toxicity from this class of antibiotics. The use of an oral FQ when the only alternative is parenteral therapy is also justified. For clinicians reading this book, a well-documented case of FQ joint toxicity in a child is publishable (and reportable to the FDA), and the editors would be very happy to support such a report. Please feel free to contact us if you have a case.

Ciprofloxacin usually has very good gram-negative activity (with great regional variation in susceptibility) against enteric bacilli (E coli, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Salmonella, and Shigella) and against P aeruginosa. However, it lacks substantial gram-positive coverage and should not be used to treat streptococcal, staphylococcal, or pneumococcal infections. Newer-generation FOs are more active against these pathogens; levofloxacin has documented efficacy and safety in pediatric clinical trials for respiratory tract infections. acute otitis media, and community-acquired pneumonia. Children with any question of joint/tendon/bone toxicity in the levofloxacin studies were followed up to 5 years after treatment, with no difference in joint/tendon outcomes in these randomized studies, compared to the outcomes of standard FDA-approved antibiotics used in these studies.⁷ None of the newer-generation FQs are significantly more active against gram-negative pathogens than ciprofloxacin. Quinolone antibiotics are bitter tasting. Ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin are currently available in a suspension form; ciprofloxacin is FDA approved in pediatrics for cUTIs and inhalation anthrax, while levofloxacin is approved for plague and inhalation anthrax. Regarding levofloxacin, Johnson & Johnson chose not to apply to the FDA for approval for pediatric respiratory tract infection indications, despite successful clinical trials in children. For reasons of safety and to prevent the emergence of widespread resistance, FQs should still not be used for primary therapy for pediatric infections and should be limited to situations in which safe and effective alternative oral therapy does not exist.

5. Preferred Therapy for Specific Fungal Pathogens

NOTES

- See Chapter 6 for discussion of the differences between polyenes, azoles, and echinocandins.
- Abbreviations: ABLC, amphotericin B lipid complex (Abelcet); AmB, amphotericin B; AmB-D, amphotericin B deoxycholate, the conventional standard amphotericin B (original trade name Fungizone); bid, twice daily; CNS, central nervous system; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; CT, computed tomography; div, divided; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy; IV, intravenous; L-AmB, liposomal amphotericin B (AmBisome); max, maximum; PO, orally; q, every; qd, once daily; qid, 4 times daily; spp, species; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole.

Casnofungin

A. OVERVIEW OF MORE COMMON FUNGAL PATHOGENS AND THEIR USUAL PATTERN OF ANTIFUNGAL **SUSCEPTIBILITIES**

Fungal Species	Amphotericin B Formulations		Itraconazole	Voriconazole	Posaconazole	Isavuconazole	Flucytosine	Casporungin, Micafungin, or Anidulafungin
Aspergillus calidoustus	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	++
Aspergillus fumigatus	+	-	±	++	+	++	-	+
Aspergillus terreus	_	_	+	++	+	++	_	+
Blastomyces dermatitidis	++	+	++	+	+	+	_	_
Candida albicans	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++
Candida auris	±	_	±	±	+	+	±	++
Candida glabrata	+	_	±	±	±	±	+	±
Candida guilliermondii	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	±
Candida krusei	+	_	-	+	+	+	+	++
Candida lusitaniae	_	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
Candida parapsilosis	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
Candida tropicalis	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++

Coccidioides immitis	++	++	+	+	++	+	-	-
Cryptococcus spp	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	-
Fusarium spp	±	_	_	++	+	+	_	_
Histoplasma capsulatum	++	+	++	+	+	+	_	-
Lomentospora (formerly Scedosporium) prolificans	_	_	±	±	±	±	_	±
Mucor spp	++	-	±	_	+	++	_	-
Paracoccidioides spp	+	+	++	+	+	+	-	-
Penicillium spp	±	_	++	+	+	+	_	_
Rhizopus spp	++	-	_	_	+	+	_	_
Scedosporium apiospermum	-	-	±	+	+	+	-	±
Sporothrix spp	+	+	++	+	+	+	_	_
Trichosporon spp	-	+	+	++	+	+	-	-

NOTE: ++ = preferred; + = acceptable; ± = possibly effective (see text for further discussion); − = unlikely to be effective.

B. SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS

Infection

When treating invasive fungal disease with azoles, it is important to document therapeutic serum concentrations, particularly when using oral therapy. The editors use laboratories that provide high-performance liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry techniques with rapid results compared with the older microbiological techniques. One laboratory that provides this service is the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Fungus Testing Laboratory (https://lsom.uthscsa.edu/pathology/reference-labs/fungus-testing-laboratory/antifungal-drug-levels: 210/567-4029)

	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Prophylaxis		
Prophylaxis of invasive fungal infection in patients with hematologic malignancies ¹⁻¹¹	Caspofungin was superior to fluconazole in a randomized controlled trial of neutropenic children with acute myeloid leukemia (AI), ¹² yet compared to triazoles, caspofungin did not significantly reduce incidence of invasive fungal disease in pediatric recipients of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplants. ¹³ Micafungin is safe and effective as prophylaxis in pediatric autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant (AII). ¹⁴ Fluconazole 6 mg/kg/day for prevention of infection (AII). Posaconazole for prevention of infection has been well studied in adults (AI) and offers anti-mold coverage. ⁴	Fluconazole is not effective against molds and some strain of <i>Candida</i> . Posaconazole PO, voriconazole PO, and micafungin IV are effective in adults in preventing yeast and mold infections but are not well studied in children for this indication. ¹⁵
Prophylaxis of invasive fungal infection in patients with solid- organ transplants ¹⁶⁻²⁰	Fluconazole 6 mg/kg/day for prevention of infection (AII)	AmB, caspofungin, micafungin, voriconazole, or posaconazole may be effective in preventing infection.

Treatment

Asperaillosis 1,21-32

Voriconazole (AI) 18 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a loading dose on the first day, then 16 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a maintenance dose for children 2-12 v or 12–14 y and weighing <50 kg. In children ≥15 y or 12-14 y and weighing >50 kg, use adult dosing (load 12 mg/kg/day IV div g12h on the first day. then 8 mg/kg/day div g12h as a maintenance dose) (All). When stable, may switch from voriconazole IV to voriconazole PO at a dose of 18 mg/kg/day div bid for children 2-12 y and at least 400 mg/day div bid for children >12 v (AII). Dosing in children <2 v is less clear, but doses are generally higher due to more rapid clearance (AIII). These are only initial dosing recommendations; it is critical to understand that continued dosing in all ages is guided by close monitoring of trough serum voriconazole concentrations in individual patients (AII). Unlike in adults, voriconazole oral bioavailability in children is about only 50%-60%, so trough levels are crucial when using PO.33

Alternatives for primary therapy when voriconazole cannot be administered: isavuconazole (AI), posaconazole (AI), or L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day (AII). Dosing of isavuconazole in children <13 y is 10 mg/kg (q8h on days 1 and 2 and qd thereafter). ABLC is another alternative. Echinocandin primary monotherapy should not be used for treating invasive aspergillosis (CII). AmB-D should be used only in resource-limited settings in which no alternative agent is available (AII).

Voriconazole is the current guideline-recommended primary antifungal therapy for all clinical forms of aspergillosis. A recent randomized controlled trial showed that posaconazole is non-inferior to voriconazole for invasive aspergillosis (AI).³⁵ An earlier randomized controlled trial showed that isavuconazole was non-inferior to voriconazole for invasive aspergillosis (AI).³⁰ Early initiation of therapy in patients with strongly suspected disease is important while a diagnostic evaluation is conducted.

Optimal voriconazole trough serum concentrations (generally thought to be 2–5 mcg/mL) are essential. Check trough level 2–5 days after initiation of therapy, and repeat the following week to verify and 4 days after a change of dose.³² It is critical to monitor trough concentrations to guide therapy due to high inter-patient variability.³⁶ Low voriconazole concentrations are a consistent leading cause of clinical failure. Younger children (especially <3 y) often have lower trough voriconazole levels and need much higher dosing. Dosing for younger children should begin as listed but will invariably need to be increased.

Total treatment course is for a minimum of 6 wk, largely dependent on the degree and duration of immunosuppression and evidence of disease improvement.

A recent expert panel agreed that primary therapy, with confirmed appropriate therapeutic drug levels, should be given for at least 8 days to show an effect.³⁷

(Continued on next page)

B. SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)

Therapy (evidence grade)

Aspergillosis 1,20-31 (continued)

Comments

Current guidelines recommend that salvage antifungal therapy options after failed primary therapy include a change of antifungal class (by using L-AmB or an echinocandin), a switch to isavuconazole, a switch to posaconazole (serum trough concentrations ≥1 mcg/mL), or use of combination antifungal therapy. Most experts would recommend a switch to I-AmB

Azole monotherapy is not usually recommended after azole prophylaxis has failed.

Combination antifungal therapy with voriconazole plus an echinocandin may be considered in select patients. The addition of anidulafungin to voriconazole as combination therapy showed some statistical benefit to the combination over voriconazole monotherapy in only certain patients.38 In vitro data suggest some synergy with 2 (but not 3) drug combinations; an azole plus an echinocandin is the most well studied. If combination therapy is used, this is likely best done initially, when voriconazole trough concentrations may not yet be appropriate.

Routine antifungal susceptibility testing is not recommended but is suggested for patients who are suspected of having an azole-resistant isolate or who are unresponsive to therapy.

Azole-resistant Aspergillus fumigatus is increasing. If local epidemiology suggests >10% azole resistance, initial empiric therapy should be voriconazole + echinocandin OR + L-AmB, and subsequent therapy guided based on antifungal susceptibilities.39

Micafungin likely has equal efficacy to caspofungin against aspergillosis.40

Bipolaris,
Cladophialophora,
Curvularia,
Exophiala, Alternaria,
and other agents of
phaeohyphomycosis
(dematiaceous,

pigmented molds)41-48

Voriconazole (AI) 18 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a loading dose on the first day, then 16 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a maintenance dose for children 2-12 v or 12-14 y and weighing <50 kg. In children ≥15 y or 12-14 v and weighing >50 kg, use adult dosing (load 12 mg/kg/day IV div g12h on the first day, then 8 mg/kg/day div g12h as a maintenance dose) (AII). When stable, may switch from voriconazole IV to voriconazole PO at a dose of 18 mg/kg/day div bid for children 2-12 y and at least 400 mg/day div bid for children >12 v (AII). Dosing in children <2 v is less clear, but doses are generally higher due to more rapid clearance (AIII). These are only initial dosing recommendations; continued dosing in all ages is guided by close monitoring of trough serum voriconazole concentrations in individual patients (AII). Unlike in adults, voriconazole oral bioavailability in children is about only 50%-60%, so trough levels are crucial.33

Alternatives could include posaconazole (trough concentrations >1 mcg/mL) or combination therapy with an echinocandin + azole or an echinocandin + L-AmB (BIII).

Return of immune function is paramount to treatment success; for children receiving corticosteroids, decreasing the corticosteroid dosage or changing to steroid-sparing protocols is important.

Aggressive surgical debulking/excision is essential for CNS lesions

These can be highly resistant infections, so strongly recommend antifungal susceptibility testing to guide therapy and consultation with a pediatric infectious diseases expert. Antifungal susceptibilities are often variable, but empiric therapy with voriconazole is the best start

Optimal voriconazole trough serum concentrations (generally thought to be 2–5 mcg/mL) are important for success. Check trough level 2–5 days after initiation of therapy and repeat the following week to verify and 4 days after a change of dose. It is critical to monitor trough concentrations to guide therapy due to high interpatient variability.³⁶ Low voriconazole concentrations are a leading cause of clinical failure. Younger children (especially <3 y) often have lower voriconazole levels and need much higher dosing. Some experts will recommend higher trough levels for difficult CNS lesions.

	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Blastomycosis (North American) ^{49–55}	For moderate to severe pulmonary disease: L-AmB 5 mg/kg IV daily for 1–2 wk or until improvement noted, followed by step-down therapy with itraconazole oral solution 10 mg/kg/day div bid (max 400 mg/day) for a total of 6–12 mo (AlII). ABLC is an alternative formulation if L-AmB is not available. Itraconazole loading dose (double dose for first 2 days) is recommended in adults but has not been studied in children (but is likely helpful). For mild to moderate pulmonary disease: itraconazole oral solution 10 mg/kg/day div bid (max 400 mg/day) for a total of 6–12 mo (AlII). Itraconazole loading dose (double dose for first 2 days) is recommended in adults but has not been studied in children (but is likely helpful). For CNS blastomycosis: L-AmB or ABLC (preferred over AmB-D) for 4–6 wk, followed by an azole (fluconazole is preferred, at 12 mg/kg/day after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg; alternatives for CNS disease are voriconazole or itraconazole), for a total of at least 12 mo and until resolution of CSF abnormalities (AlI). Some experts suggest combination therapy with L-AmB/ABLC plus highdose fluconazole as induction therapy in CNS blastomycosis until clinical improvement (BIII).	New international guidelines exist. Set All forms of blastomycosis should be treated. Itraconazole oral solution provides greater and more reliable absorption than capsules, and only the oral solution should be used (on an empty stomach); serum concentrations of itraconazole should be determined 5 days after start of therapy to ensure adequate drug exposure. For blastomycosis, maintain trough itraconazole concentrations 1–2 mcg/mL (values for both itraconazole and hydroxyl-itraconazole are added together). If only itraconazole capsules are available, use 20 mg/kg/day div q12h taken with cola drink to increase gastric acidity and bioavailability. Alternative to itraconazole: 12 mg/kg/day fluconazole (BIII) after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day. A case series has shown that outcomes of voriconazole are like those of itraconazole, and there is little experience with posaconazole or isavuconazole. Patients with extrapulmonary blastomycosis should receive at least 12 mo of total therapy; long courses are recommended for CNS or bone involvement. If induction with L-AmB alone is failing, add itraconazole or high-dose fluconazole until clinical improvement. Lifelong itraconazole if immunosuppression cannot be reversed.
Candidiasis ^{57–61} (See Chapter 6.)		
– Cutaneous	Topical therapy (alphabetic order): ciclopirox, clotrimazole, econazole, haloprogin, ketoconazole, miconazole, oxiconazole, sertaconazole, sulconazole	Fluconazole 6 mg/kg/day PO qd for 5–7 days Relapse common in cases of chronic mucocutaneous disease, and antifungal susceptibilities critical to drive appropriate therapy

D. CYCTEMIC INFECTIONS

- Disseminated infection, acute (including catheter fungemia)
- An echinocandin is recommended as initial therapy. Caspofungin 70 mg/m² IV loading dose on day 1 (max dose 70 mg), followed by 50 mg/m² IV (max dose 70 mg) on subsequent days (AII); OR micafungin 2 mg/kg/day q24h (children weighing <40 kg), with max dose 100 mg/day (AII).⁵² ABLC or L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day IV q24h (BII) is an effective but less attractive alternative due to potential toxicity (AII).
- Fluconazole (12 mg/kg/day q24h, after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day) is an alternative for patients who are not critically ill and have had no prior azole exposure (CIII). A fluconazole loading dose is standard of care in adult patients but has been studied only in infants (not yet in children)⁶³; however, it is very likely that the beneficial effect of a loading dose extends to children. Fluconazole can be used as step-down therapy in stable neutropenic patients with susceptible isolates and documented bloodstream clearance (CIII). For children of all ages receiving ECMO, fluconazole is dosed as a 35 mg/kg loading dose on day 1, followed by 12 mg/kg/day (BII).⁶⁴
- Transition from an echinocandin to fluconazole (usually within 5–7 days) is recommended for non-neutropenic patients who are clinically stable, have isolates that are susceptible to fluconazole (eg, Candida albicans), and have negative repeated blood cultures following initiation of antifungal therapy (All).

- Prompt removal of infected IV catheter or any infected devices is absolutely critical to success (All).
- For infections with Candida krusei or Candida glabrata, an echinocandin is preferred; however, there are increasing reports of some C glabrata resistance to echinocandins (treatment would, therefore, be lipid formulation L-AmB or ABLC) (BIII). There are increasing reports of some Candida tropicalis resistance to fluconazole.
- Lipid formulation AmB (5 mg/kg daily) is a reasonable alternative if there is intolerance, limited availability, or resistance to other antifungal agents (AI). Transition from a lipid AmB to fluconazole is recommended after 5–7 days among patients who have isolates that are susceptible to fluconazole, who are clinically stable, and in whom repeated cultures on antifungal therapy are negative (AI). Voriconazole (18 mg/kg/day div q12h loading dose, followed by 16 mg/kg/day div q12h) is effective for candidemia but offers little advantage over fluconazole as initial therapy. Voriconazole is recommended as step-down oral therapy for select cases of candidemia due to Chrusei or if mold
- Follow-up blood cultures should be performed qd or every other day to establish the time point at which candidemia has been cleared (All).
- Duration of therapy is for 2 wk AFTER negative cultures in pediatric patients without obvious metastatic complications and after symptom resolution (All).
- In neutropenic patients, ophthalmologic findings of choroidal and vitreous infection are minimal until recovery from neutropenia; therefore, dilated funduscopic examinations should be performed within the first week after recovery from neutropenia (AllI).

(Continued on next page)

coverage is needed.

B. SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)				
	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments		
Disseminated infection, acute (including catheter fungemia) (continued)	For CNS infections: L-AmB/ABLC (5 mg/kg/day), and AmB-D (1 mg/kg/day) as an alternative, combined with or without flucytosine 100 mg/kg/day PO div q6h (All) until initial clinical response, followed by step-down therapy with fluconazole (12 mg/kg/day q24h, after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day); echinocandins do not achieve therapeutic concentrations in CSF.	All non-neutropenic patients with candidemia should ideally have a dilated ophthalmologic examination, preferably performed by an ophthalmologist, within the first week after diagnosis (AllI).		
Disseminated infection, chronic (hepatosplenic)	Initial therapy with lipid formulation AmB (L-AmB or ABLC, 5 mg/kg daily) OR an echinocandin (caspofungin 70 mg/m² IV loading dose on day 1 [max dose 70 mg], followed by 50 mg/m² IV [max dose 70 mg] on subsequent days OR micafungin 2 mg/kg/day q24h in children weighing <40 kg [max dose 100 mg]) for several weeks, followed by oral fluconazole in patients unlikely to have a fluconazole-resistant isolate (12 mg/kg/day q24h, after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day) (AlII). Therapy should continue until lesions resolve on repeated imaging; they usually resolve after several months. Premature discontinuation of antifungal therapy can lead to relapse (AIII).	If chemotherapy or hematopoietic cell transplant is required, it should not be delayed because of the presence of chronic disseminated candidiasis, and antifungal therapy should be continued throughout the period of high risk to prevent relapse (AIII).		
– Neonatal ⁶⁰ (See Chapter 2.)	AmB-D (1 mg/kg/day) is recommended therapy (AII).65 Fluconazole (12 mg/kg/day q24h, after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day) is an alternative if patient has not been receiving fluconazole prophylaxis (AII).66 For treatment of neonates and young infants (<120 days) receiving ECMO, fluconazole is loaded with 35 mg/kg on day 1, followed by 12 mg/kg/day q24h (BII).	In nurseries with high rates of candidiasis (>10%), IV or oral fluconazole prophylaxis (AI) (3–6 mg/kg twice weekly for 6 wk) in high-risk neonates (birth weight <1,000 g) is recommended. Oral nystatin, 100,000 U 3 times daily for 6 wk, is an alternative to fluconazole in neonates with birth weights <1,500 g when availability or resistance precludes the use of fluconazole (CII).		

Lipid formulation AmB is an alternative but carries a
theoretical risk of penetrating the urinary tract less
than AmB-D (CIII) would

Duration of therapy for candidemia without obvious metastatic complications is for 2 wk AFTER documented clearance and resolution of symptoms (therefore, generally 3 wk total).

Echinocandins should be used with caution and generally limited to salvage therapy or to situations in which resistance or toxicity precludes the use of AmB-D or fluconazole (CIII). A recent randomized trial of caspofungin vs AmB-D showed similar fungal-free survival.⁶⁷

Role of flucytosine in neonates with meningitis is questionable and not routinely recommended due to toxicity concerns. The addition of flucytosine (100 mg/kg/day div q6h) may be considered as salvage therapy in patients who have not had a clinical response to initial AmB therapy, but adverse effects are frequent (CIII).

- Lumbar puncture and dilated retinal examination recommended for neonates with cultures positive for *Candida* spp from blood and/or urine (AlII). Same recommended for all neonates with birth weight <1,500 g with candiduria with or without candidemia (AlII).
- CT or ultrasound imaging of genitourinary tract, liver, and spleen should be performed if blood cultures are persistently positive (AIII).
- Meningoencephalitis in the neonate occurs at a higher rate than in older children/adults.
- Central venous catheter removal is strongly recommended. Infected CNS devices, including ventriculostomy drains and shunts, should be removed if possible.

Oropharyngeal, esophageal⁵⁷

Mild oropharyngeal disease: clotrimazole 10-mg troches PO 5 times daily OR nystatin 100,000 U/mL, 4–6 mL gid for 7–14 days.

Alternatives also include miconazole mucoadhesive buccal 50-mg tablet to the mucosal surface over the canine fossa qd for 7–14 days OR 1–2 nystatin pastilles (200,000 U each) qid for 7–14 days (All). Moderate to severe oropharyngeal disease:

fluconazole 6 mg/kg PO qd for 7–14 days (All). Esophageal candidiasis: oral fluconazole (6–12 mg/kg/day, after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day) for 14–21 days (Al). If cannot tolerate oral therapy, use fluconazole IV OR ABLC/L-AmB/AmB-D OR an echinocandin (Al). A meta-analysis showed that clotrimazole is less effective than fluconazole but as effective as other topical therapies.⁶⁸

For fluconazole-refractory oropharyngeal or esophageal disease: itraconazole oral solution OR posaconazole OR AmB IV OR an echinocandin for up to 28 days (All).

Esophageal disease always requires systemic antifungal therapy. A diagnostic trial of antifungal therapy for esophageal candidiasis is appropriate before performing an endoscopic examination (Al).

Chronic suppressive therapy (3 times weekly) with fluconazole is recommended for recurrent infections (Al).

B. SYSTEMIC INFECT	IONS (continued)			
	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments		
– Urinary tract infection	Cystitis: fluconazole 6 mg/kg qd IV or PO for 2 wk (All). For fluconazole-resistant <i>C glabrata</i> or <i>C krusei</i> , AmB-D for 1–7 days (AllI). Pyelonephritis: fluconazole 12 mg/kg qd IV or PO for 2 wk (AlII) after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day. For fluconazole-resistant <i>C glabrata</i> or <i>C krusei</i> , AmB-D with or without flucytosine for 1–7 days (AlII).	Treatment is NOT recommended in asymptomatic candiduria unless high risk for dissemination; neutropenic low birth weight neonate (<1,500 g); or patient to undergo urologic manipulation (AIII). Neutropenic patients and low birth weight neonates should be treated as recommended for candidemia (AIII). Removing Foley catheter, if present, may lead to a spontaneous cure in the normal host; check for additional upper urinary tract disease. AmB-D bladder irrigation is not generally recommended due to high relapse rate (an exception may be in fluconazole-resistant Candida) (CIII). For renal collecting-system fungus balls, surgical debridement may be required in nonneonates (BIII). Echinocandins have poor urinary concentrations. AmB-D has greater urinary penetration than L-AmB/ABLC.		
– Vulvovaginal ⁶⁶	Topical vaginal cream/tablets/suppositories (alphabetic order): butoconazole, clotrimazole, econazole, fenticonazole, miconazole, sertaconazole, terconazole, or tioconazole for 3–7 days (Al) OR fluconazole 10 mg/kg (max 150 mg) as a single dose (All)	For uncomplicated vulvovaginal candidiasis, no topical agent is clearly superior. Avoid azoles during pregnancy. For severe disease, fluconazole 150 mg given q72h for 2–3 doses (Al). For recurring disease, consider 10–14 days of induction with topical agent or fluconazole, followed by fluconazole once weekly for 6 mo (Al). In a phase 2 study, ibrexafungerp was effective and well tolerated (All). ⁶⁹		

Chromoblastomycosis

(subcutaneous infection by dematiaceous fungi)⁷⁰⁻⁷⁴ Itraconazole oral solution 10 mg/kg/day div bid for 12–18 mo, in combination with surgical excision or repeated cryotherapy (All).

Itraconazole oral solution provides greater and more reliable absorption than capsules, and only the oral solution should be used (on an empty stomach); serum concentrations of itraconazole should be determined 5 days after start of therapy to ensure adequate drug exposure. Maintain trough itraconazole concentrations 1–2 mcg/mL (values for both itraconazole and hydroxyl-itraconazole are added together).

Alternative: terbinafine plus surgery; heat and potassium iodide: posaconazole.

Lesions are recalcitrant and difficult to treat.

B. SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)

Therapy (evidence grade)

Coccidioidomycosis75-83

For moderate infections: fluconazole 12 mg/kg IV/PO g24h (All) after loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day.

For severe pulmonary disease: AmB-D 1 mg/kg/day IV g24h OR ABLC/L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day IV g24h (AIII) as initial therapy for several weeks until clear improvement, followed by an oral azole for total therapy of at least 12 mo, depending on genetic or immunocompromised risk factors.

For meningitis: fluconazole 12 mg/kg/day IV g24h (AII) after loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day (AII). Itraconazole has also been effective (BIII). If no response to azole, use intrathecal AmB-D (0.1–1.5 mg/dose) with or without fluconazole (AIII). Lifelong azole suppressive therapy required due to high relapse rate. Adjunctive corticosteroids in meningitis have resulted in less secondary cerebrovascular events.84

For extrapulmonary (non-meningeal), particularly for osteomyelitis, an oral azole such as fluconazole or itraconazole solution 10 mg/kg/day div bid for at least 12 mo (AIII), and L-AmB/ABLC as an alternative (less toxic than AmB-D) for severe disease or if worsening. Itraconazole oral solution provides greater and more reliable absorption than capsules, and only the oral solution should be used (on an empty stomach); serum concentrations of itraconazole should be determined 5 days after start of therapy to ensure adequate drug exposure. Maintain trough itraconazole concentrations 1-2 mcg/mL (values for both itraconazole and hydroxyl-itraconazole are added together).

Comments

New international guidelines exist.⁵⁶ Mild pulmonary disease does not require routine therapy in the normal host and only requires periodic reassessment. Treatment with fluconazole or itraconazole should be given to all patients with underlying immunosuppression, prolonged infection, underlying cardiopulmonary comorbidities, or complement fixation titers of $\geq 1:32$.

There is experience with posaconazole for disease in adults but little experience in children, Isavuconazole experience in adults is increasing.

Treat until titers of serum cocci complement fixation drop to 1:8 or 1:4. at about 3-6 mo.

Disease in immunocompromised hosts may need to be treated longer, including potentially lifelong azole secondary prophylaxis. Watch for relapse up to 1-2 y after therapy.

Cryptococcosis85-89

For mild to moderate pulmonary disease: fluconazole 12 mg/kg/day (max 400 mg) IV/PO q24h after loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day for 6–12 mo (All). Itraconazole is alternative if cannot tolerate fluconazole.

For meningitis or severe pulmonary disease: induction therapy with AmB-D 1 mg/kg/day IV q24h OR ABLC/L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day q24h; AND flucytosine 100 mg/kg/day PO div q6h for a minimum of 2 wk and a repeated CSF culture is negative, followed by consolidation therapy with fluconazole (12 mg/kg/day with max dose 400 mg after a loading dose of 25 mg/kg/day) for a minimum of 8 more wk (Al). Then use maintenance therapy with fluconazole (6 mg/kg/day) for 6–12 mo (Al).

Alternative induction therapies for meningitis or severe pulmonary disease (order of preference):

AmB product for 4–6 wk (All); AmB product plus fluconazole for 2 wk, followed by fluconazole for 8 wk (BII); fluconazole plus flucytosine for 6 wk (BII).

Serum flucytosine concentrations should be obtained after 3–5 days to achieve a 2-h post-dose peak <100 mcg/mL (ideally 30–80 mcg/mL) to prevent neutropenia.

For HIV-positive patients, continue maintenance therapy with fluconazole (6 mg/kg/day) indefinitely. Initiate HAART 2–10 wk after commencement of antifungal therapy to avoid immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome.

In organ transplant recipients, continue maintenance fluconazole (6 mg/kg/day) for 6–12 mo after consolidation therapy with higher-dose fluconazole.

For cryptococcal relapse, restart induction therapy (this time for 4–10 wk), repeat CSF analysis q2wk until sterile, and determine antifungal susceptibility of relapse isolate.

Successful use of voriconazole, posaconazole, and isavuconazole for cryptococcosis has been reported in adult patients.

In resource-limited settings, a recent clinical trial of a single 10 mg/kg dose of L-AmB plus 14 days of flucytosine + fluconazole was non-inferior to standard therapy.⁹⁰

B. SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS (continued)

Fusarium. Lomentospora (formerly Scedosporium) prolificans. Pseudallescheria boydii (and its asexual form, Scedosporium apiospermum),41,91-95 and other agents of

hvalohyphomycosis

Therapy (evidence grade)

Voriconazole (AII) 18 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a loading dose on the first day, then 16 mg/kg/day IV div g12h as a maintenance dose for children 2-12 v or 12–14 y and weighing <50 kg. In children ≥15 y or 12–14 v and weighing >50 kg, use adult dosing (load 12 mg/kg/day IV div g12h on the first day. then 8 mg/kg/day div g12h as a maintenance dose) (AII).

When stable, may switch from voriconazole IV to voriconazole PO at a dose of 18 mg/kg/day div bid for children 2-12 v and at least 400 mg/day div bid for children >12 y (AII). Dosing in children <2 y is less clear, but doses are generally higher due to more rapid clearance (AIII). These are only initial dosing recommendations; continued dosing in all ages is guided by close monitoring of trough serum voriconazole concentrations in individual patients (AII). Unlike in adults, voriconazole oral bioavailability in children is about only 50%-60%, so trough levels are crucial at this stage.33

Comments

These can be highly resistant infections, so strongly recommend antifungal susceptibility testing against a wide range of agents to guide specific therapy and consultation with a pediatric infectious diseases expert.

Optimal voriconazole trough serum concentrations (generally thought to be 2-5 mcg/mL) are important for success. Check trough level 2-5 days after initiation of therapy and repeat the following week to verify and 4 days after a change of dose. It is critical to monitor trough concentrations to guide therapy due to high interpatient variability.36 Low voriconazole concentrations are a leading cause of clinical failure. Younger children (especially <3 y) often have lower voriconazole levels and need much higher dosing.

Often resistant to AmB in vitro.

Alternatives: posaconazole (trough concentrations >1 mcg/mL) can be active; echinocandins have been reportedly successful as salvage therapy in combination with azoles; while there are reports of promising in vitro combinations with terbinafine, terbinafine does not obtain therapeutic tissue concentrations required for these disseminated infections; miltefosine (for leishmaniasis) use has been reported. Olorofim is an investigational agent with excellent activity against these recalcitrant pathogens.

Histoplasmosis⁹⁶⁻⁹⁸

For severe acute pulmonary disease: ABLC/L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day q24h for 1–2 wk, followed by itraconazole 10 mg/kg/day div bid (max 400 mg daily) to complete a total of 12 wk (Alll). Add methylprednisolone (0.5–1.0 mg/kg/day) for first 1–2 wk in patients with hypoxia or significant respiratory distress.

For mild to moderate acute pulmonary disease: if symptoms persist for >1 mo, itraconazole oral solution 10 mg/kg/day div bid for 6–12 wk (AlII). For progressive disseminated histoplasmosis: ABLC/L-AmB 5 mg/kg/day q24h for 4–6 wk; alternative treatment is lipid AmB for 1–2 wk followed by itraconazole 10 mg/kg/day div bid (max 400 mg daily) to complete a total of at least 12 mo (AlII).

New international guidelines exist. ⁵⁶ Mild pulmonary disease may not require therapy and, in most cases, resolves in 1 mo

CNS histoplasmosis requires initial L-AmB/ABLC (less toxic than AmB-D) therapy for 4–6 wk, followed by itraconazole for at least 12 mo and until CSF antigen resolution.

Itraconazole oral solution provides greater and more reliable absorption than capsules, and only the oral solution should be used (on an empty stomach); serum concentrations of itraconazole should be determined 5 days after start of therapy to ensure adequate drug exposure. Maintain trough itraconazole concentrations at >1–2 mcg/mL (values for both itraconazole and hydroxylitraconazole are added together). If only itraconazole capsules are available, use 20 mg/kg/day div q12h taken with cola drink to increase gastric acidity and bioavailability.

Potential lifelong suppressive itraconazole if cannot reverse immunosuppression.

Corticosteroids recommended for 2 wk for pericarditis with hemodynamic compromise.

Voriconazole and posaconazole use has been reported. Fluconazole is inferior to itraconazole.

В.	SYST	EMIC	INFEC	TIONS	(continued

Therapy (evidence grade) Comments Mucormycosis Aggressive surgical debridement combined with Latest international mucormycosis guidelines recommend induction antifungal therapy: L-AmB at 5–10 mg/ L-AmB as primary therapy. 109 (previously known as zvgomycosis)31,99-105 kg/day g24h (All) for 3 wk. Lipid formulations of Following clinical response with AmB, long-term oral step-AmB are preferred to AmB-D due to increased down therapy with posaconazole (trough concentrations penetration and decreased toxicity. ideally for mucormycosis at >2 mcg/mL) can be attempted Some experts advocate induction or salvage for 2-6 ma combination therapy with combination of L-AmB Dosing of isavuconazole in children <13 y is 10 mg/kg (g8h plus posaconazole 106 or L-AmB plus an on days 1 and 2 and qd thereafter).34 echinocandin (although data are largely in diabetic Voriconazole has NO activity against mucormycosis or other patients with rhinocerebral disease) (CIII), 107 zvaomycetes. For salvage therapy, isayuconazole (AII)¹⁰⁸ or Return of immune function is paramount to treatment posaconazole (AIII). success; for children receiving corticosteroids, decreasing Following successful induction antifungal therapy (for the corticosteroid dosage or changing to steroid-sparing at least 3 wk), can continue consolidation therapy protocols is also important. with posaconazole (or use intermittent L-AmB) (BII). Antifungal susceptibility is key if can be obtained. CNS disease likely benefits from higher doses such as L-AmB at 10 mg/kg/day g24h, Likely no benefit at >10 mg/kg/ day and only increased toxicity.

Paracoccidioidomvcosis110-113

Itraconazole oral solution 10 mg/kg/day (max 400 mg daily) div bid for 6 mo (AIII) OR voriconazole (for dosing, see Aspergillosis earlier in this table under Treatment) (BI). Itraconazole is superior to TMP/ SMX.

New international guidelines exist.⁵⁶ Alternatives: fluconazole: isavuconazole: sulfadiazine or TMP/SMX for 3-5 y.

Voriconazole is similarly efficacious and useful in cases with CNS involvement.

AmB is recommended for immunocompromised patients.

Pneumocystis jiroveci (formerly carinii) pneumonia ^{114–116}	Severe disease: preferred regimen is TMP/SMX 15–20 mg TMP component/kg/day IV div q8h (AI) OR, for TMP/SMX intolerance or TMP/SMX treatment failure, pentamidine isethionate 4-mg base/kg/day IV qd (BII), for 3 wk. Mild to moderate disease: start with IV therapy, then, after acute pneumonitis is resolved, TMP/SMX 20 mg TMP component/kg/day PO div qid for 3-wk total treatment course (AII).	Alternatives: TMP AND dapsone; OR primaquine AND clindamycin; OR atovaquone. Prophylaxis: preferred regimen is TMP/SMX (5 mg TMP component/kg/day) PO div bid 3 times/wk on consecutive days; OR same dose, given qd; OR atovaquone: 30 mg/kg/day for infants 1–3 mo; 45 mg/kg/day for infants/children 4–24 mo; and 30 mg/kg/day for children >24 mo; OR dapsone 2 mg/kg (max 100 mg) PO qd, OR dapsone 4 mg, kg (max 200 mg) PO once weekly. Use steroid therapy for more severe disease.	
Sporotrichosis ^{117,118}	For cutaneous/lymphocutaneous: itraconazole oral solution 10 mg/kg/day div bid for 2–4 wk after all lesions gone (generally total of 3–6 mo) (All) For serious pulmonary or disseminated infection or disseminated sporotrichosis: ABLC/L-AmB at 5 mg/kg/day q24h until favorable response, then step-down therapy with itraconazole PO for at least	New international guidelines exist. ⁵⁶ If no response for cutaneous disease, treat with higher itraconazole dose, terbinafine, or saturated solution of potassium iodide. Fluconazole is less effective. Obtain serum concentrations of itraconazole after 2 wk of therapy; want serum trough concentration >1 mcg/mL. For meningeal disease, initial L-AmB/ABLC (less toxic than	

a total of 12 mo (AIII)

For less severe disease, itraconazole for 12 mo

AmB-D) should be 4–6 wk before change to itraconazole

Surgery may be necessary in osteoarticular or pulmonary

for at least 12 mo of therapy.

disease.

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Dermatophytoses		
– Scalp (tinea capitis, including kerion) ^{119–124}	Griseofulvin ultramicrosize 10–15 mg/kg/day or microsize 20–25 mg/kg/day PO qd for 6–12 wk (All) (taken with milk or fatty foods to augment absorption) generally for 8 wk. For kerion, treat concurrently with prednisone (1–2 mg/kg/day for 1–2 wk) (Alll). Terbinafine can be used for only 2–4 wk. Terbinafine dosing is 62.5 mg/day (<20 kg), 125 mg/day (20–40 kg), or 250 mg/day (>40 kg) (All).	Griseofulvin is superior for <i>Microsporum</i> infections, but terbinafine is superior for <i>Trichophyton</i> infections. 125 <i>Trichophyton tonsurans</i> predominates in United States. No need to routinely follow liver function tests in normal, healthy children taking griseofulvin. Alternatives: itraconazole oral solution 5 mg/kg qd or fluconazole. 2.5% selenium sulfide shampoo, or 2% ketoconazole shampoo, 2–3 times weekly should be used concurrently to prevent recurrences.
 Tinea corporis (infection of the trunk/limbs/face) Tinea cruris (infection of the groin) Tinea pedis (infection of the toes/feet) 	Topical agents (alphabetic order): butenafine, ciclopirox, clotrimazole, econazole, haloprogin, ketoconazole, miconazole, naftifine, oxiconazole, sertaconazole, sulconazole, terbinafine, and tolnaftate (All); apply daily for 4 wk.	For unresponsive tinea lesions, use griseofulvin PO in dosages provided for scalp (tinea capitis, including kerion); fluconazole PO; itraconazole PO; OR terbinafine PO. For tinea pedis: terbinafine PO or itraconazole PO is preferred over other oral agents. Keep skin as clean and dry as possible, particularly for tinea cruris and tinea pedis.
– Tinea unguium (onychomycosis) ^{121,126,127}	Terbinafine 62.5 mg/day (<20 kg), 125 mg/day (20–40 kg), or 250 mg/day (>40 kg). Use for at least 6 wk (fingernails) or 12–16 wk (toenails) (All).	Recurrence or partial response common. Pulse terbinafine (1 wk per mo or 1 wk q3mo) or itraconazole has similar efficacy to that of continuous treatment. ^{128,129} Alternative: itraconazole pulse therapy with 10 mg/kg/day div q12h for 1 wk per mo. Two pulses for fingernails and 3 pulses for toenails. Alternatives: fluconazole, griseofulvin.

 Tinea versicolor (also called "pityriasis versicolor")^{121,130,131} Apply topically: selenium sulfide 2.5% lotion or 1% shampoo daily, leave on 30 min, then rinse; for 7 days, then monthly for 6 mo (Alll); OR ciclopirox 1% cream for 4 wk (BII); OR terbinafine 1% solution (BII); OR ketoconazole 2% shampoo daily for 5 days (BII).

For small lesions, topical clotrimazole, econazole, haloprogin, ketoconazole, miconazole, or naftifine.

For lesions that fail to clear with topical therapy or for extensive lesions: fluconazole PO or itraconazole PO is equally effective. Recurrence common.

6. Choosing Among Antifungal Agents: Polyenes, Azoles, and Echinocandins

Separating antifungal agents by class, much like navigating the myriad of antibacterial agents, allows one to best understand the underlying mechanisms of action and then appropriately choose which agent would be optimal for empiric therapy or a directed approach. There are certain helpful generalizations that should be considered; for example, echinocandins are fungicidal against yeasts and fungistatic against molds, while azoles are the opposite. Coupled with these concepts is the need for continued surveillance for fungal epidemiology and resistance patterns. While some fungal species (spp) are inherently or very often resistant to specific agents or even classes, there are an increasing number of fungal isolates that are developing resistance due to environmental pressure or chronic use in individual patients. Additionally, new (often resistant) fungal spp emerge that deserve special attention, such as Candida auris, which can be multidrug resistant. In 2023, there are 15 individual antifungal agents approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for systemic use, and several more in development, including entirely new classes. Many of these new antifungals currently in development will likely be approved and available soon (fosmanogepix, rezafungin, olorofim, oteseconazole, and others). This chapter focuses on only the most commonly used systemic agents and does not highlight the many anticipated new agents until they are approved for use in patients. For each agent, there are sometimes several formulations, each with unique pharmacokinetics that one must understand to optimize the agent, particularly in patients who are critically ill. Therefore, it is more important than ever to establish a firm conceptual foundation in understanding both how these antifungal agents work to optimize pharmacokinetics and where they work best to target fungal pathogens most appropriately.

Polyenes

Amphotericin B (AmB) is a polyene antifungal antibiotic that has been available since 1958. A *Streptomyces* species, isolated from the soil in Venezuela, produced 2 antifungals whose names originated from the drug's amphoteric property of reacting as an acid as well as a base. Amphotericin A was not as active as AmB, so only AmB is used clinically. Nystatin is another polyene antifungal, but, due to systemic toxicity, it is used only in topical preparations. Nystatin was named after the New York State Department of Health, where the discoverers were working at the time. AmB remains the most broad-spectrum antifungal available for clinical use. This lipophilic drug binds to ergosterol, the major sterol in the fungal cell membrane, and for years it was thought to create transmembrane pores that compromise the integrity of the cell membrane and create a rapid fungicidal effect through osmotic lysis. However, new biochemical studies suggest a mechanism of action more related to inhibiting ergosterol synthesis. Toxicity is likely due to crossreactivity with the human cholesterol bi-lipid membrane, which resembles fungal ergosterol. The toxicity of the conventional formulation, AmB deoxycholate (AmB-D) the parent molecule coupled with an ionic detergent for clinical use—can be substantial from the standpoints of systemic reactions (eg, fever, rigors) and acute and chronic renal

toxicity. Premedication with acetaminophen, diphenhydramine, and meperidine has historically been used to prevent systemic reactions during infusion. Renal dysfunction develops primarily as decreased glomerular filtration with a rising serum creatinine concentration, but substantial tubular nephropathy is associated with potassium and magnesium wasting, requiring supplemental potassium for many neonates and children, regardless of clinical symptoms associated with infusion. Fluid loading with saline preand post–AmB-D infusion seems to somewhat mitigate renal toxicity.

Three lipid preparations approved in the mid-1990s decrease toxicity with no apparent decrease in clinical efficacy. Decisions on which lipid AmB preparation to use should, therefore, largely focus on side effects and costs. Two clinically useful lipid formulations exist: one in which ribbonlike lipid complexes of AmB are created (AmB lipid complex [ABLC]), Abelcet, and one in which AmB is incorporated into true liposomes (liposomal AmB [L-AmB]), AmBisome. The classic clinical dosage used of these preparations is 5 mg/kg/day, in contrast to the 1 mg/kg/day of AmB-D. In most studies, the side effects of L-AmB were somewhat less than those of ABLC, but both have significantly fewer side effects than AmB-D. The advantage of the lipid preparations is the ability to safely deliver a greater overall dose of the parent AmB drug. The cost of conventional AmB-D is substantially less than that of either lipid formulation. A colloidal dispersion of AmB in cholesteryl sulfate, Amphotec, which is no longer available in the United States, with decreased nephrotoxicity but infusion-related side effects, is closer to AmB-D than to the lipid formulations and precludes recommendation for its use. The decreased nephrotoxicity of the 3 lipid preparations is thought to be due to the preferential binding of its AmB to high-density lipoproteins, compared to AmB-D binding to low-density lipoproteins. Despite in vitro concentration-dependent killing, a clinical trial comparing L-AmB at doses of 3 mg/kg/day with 10 mg/kg/day showed no efficacy benefit for the higher dose and only greater toxicity.1 Recent pharmacokinetic analyses of L-AmB showed that while children receiving L-AmB at lower doses exhibit linear pharmacokinetics, a significant proportion of children receiving L-AmB at daily doses greater than 5 mg/kg/day exhibit nonlinear pharmacokinetics with significantly higher peak concentrations and some toxicity.^{2,3} Therefore, it is generally not recommended to use any lipid AmB preparations at very high dosages (>5 mg/kg/day), as it will likely incur only greater toxicity with no real therapeutic advantage. There are reports of using higher dosing in very difficult infections where a lipid AmB formulation is the first-line therapy (eg, mucormycosis), and while experts remain divided on this practice, it is clear that at least 5 mg/kg/day of a lipid AmB formulation should be used in such a setting. AmB has a long terminal half-life, and, coupled with the concentration-dependent killing, the agent is best used as single daily doses. These pharmacokinetics explain the use in some studies of once-weekly, or even once-every-2-weeks, 4 AmB for antifungal prophylaxis or preemptive therapy, albeit with mixed clinical results. If the overall AmB exposure needs to be decreased due to toxicity, it is best to increase the dosing interval (eg, 3 times weekly) but retain the full milligram per kilogram dose for optimal pharmacokinetics. There are ongoing efforts to develop novel delivery mechanisms for AmB, such as nanoparticles with encochleated AmB as an oral formulation, which are not ready for clinical use yet.

AmB-D has been used for nonsystemic purposes, such as bladder washes, intraventricular instillation, intrapleural instillation, and other modalities, but there are no firm data supporting those clinical indications, and it is likely that the local toxicities outweigh the theoretic benefits. One exception is aerosolized AmB for antifungal prophylaxis (not treatment) in lung transplant recipients due to the different pathophysiology of invasive aspergillosis (often originating at the bronchial anastomotic site, more so than parenchymal disease) in that specific patient population. This aerosolized prophylaxis approach, while indicated for lung transplant recipients, has not been shown to be effective in other patient populations. Due to the lipid chemistry, the L-AmB does not interact well with renal tubules and L-AmB is recovered from the urine at lower levels than AmB-D, so there is a theoretic concern with using a lipid formulation, as opposed to AmB-D, when treating isolated urinary fungal disease. This theoretic concern is likely outweighed by the real concern of toxicity with AmB-D. Most experts believe AmB-D should be reserved for use in resource-limited settings in which no alternative agents (eg, lipid formulations) are available. An exception is in neonates, where limited retrospective data suggest that the AmB-D formulation has better efficacy for invasive candidiasis. 5 Importantly, there are several pathogens that are inherently or functionally resistant to AmB, including Candida lusitaniae, Trichosporon spp, Aspergillus terreus, Fusarium spp, and Pseudallescheria boydii (Scedosporium apiospermum) or Lomentospora prolificans.

Azoles

This class of systemic agents was first approved in 1981 and is divided into imidazoles (ketoconazole), triazoles (fluconazole and itraconazole), and second-generation triazoles (voriconazole, posaconazole, and isavuconazole) based on the number of nitrogen atoms in the azole ring. All the azoles work by inhibition of ergosterol synthesis (fungal cytochrome P450 [CYP] sterol 14-demethylation) that is required for fungal cell membrane integrity. While the polyenes are rapidly fungicidal, the azoles are fungistatic against yeasts and fungicidal against molds. However, it is important to note that ketoconazole and fluconazole have no mold activity. The only systemic imidazole is ketoconazole, which is primarily active against *Candida* spp and is available in an oral formulation. Three azoles (itraconazole, voriconazole, and posaconazole) need therapeutic drug monitoring with trough levels within the first 4 to 7 days (when the patient is at a pharmacokinetic steady state); at present it is unclear if isavuconazole will require drug-level monitoring. It is less clear if therapeutic drug monitoring is required during primary azole prophylaxis, although low levels have been associated with a higher probability of breakthrough infection.

Fluconazole is active against a broader range of fungi than ketoconazole and includes clinically relevant activity against *Cryptococcus*, *Coccidioides*, and *Histoplasma*. The pediatric treatment dose is 12 mg/kg/day, which targets exposures that are observed in critically ill adults who receive 800 mg of fluconazole per day. Like most other azoles, fluconazole requires a loading dose on the first day, and this approach is routinely used in adult patients. A loading dose of 25 mg/kg on the first day has been nicely studied in infants^{6,7} but has not been definitively studied in all children; yet it is likely also beneficial

and the patient will reach steady-state concentrations more quickly based on adult and neonatal studies. The exception where it has been formally studied is children of all ages receiving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, for whom, because of the higher volume of distribution, a higher loading dose (35 mg/kg) is required to achieve comparable exposure.89 Compared with AmB, fluconazole achieves relatively high concentrations in urine and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) due to its low lipophilicity, with urinary concentrations often so high that treatment against even "resistant" pathogens that are isolated only in the urine is possible. Fluconazole remains one of the most active and, so far, one of the safest systemic antifungal agents for the treatment of most Candida infections. Candida albicans remains generally sensitive to fluconazole, although resistance is increasingly present in many non-albicans Candida spp as well as in C albicans in children repeatedly exposed to fluconazole. For instance, Candida krusei is considered inherently resistant to fluconazole, Candida glabrata demonstrates dose-dependent resistance to fluconazole (and, usually, voriconazole), Candida tropicalis is developing more resistant strains, and the newly identified *C auris* is generally fluconazole resistant. Fluconazole is available in parenteral and oral (with >90% bioavailability) formulations, and toxicity is unusual and primarily hepatic.

Itraconazole is active against an even broader range of fungi and, unlike fluconazole, includes molds such as Aspergillus. It is currently available as a capsule or an oral solution (the intravenous [IV] form was discontinued); the oral solution provides about 30% higher and more consistent serum concentrations than capsules and should be used preferentially. Absorption using itraconazole oral solution is improved on an empty stomach and not influenced by gastric pH (unlike with the capsule form, which is best administered under fed conditions or with a more acidic cola beverage to increase absorption), and monitoring itraconazole serum concentrations, as with most azole antifungals, is a key principal in management. Generally, itraconazole serum trough levels should be 1 to 2 mcg/mL, greater than 1 mcg/mL for treatment, and greater than 0.5 mcg/mL for prophylaxis; trough levels greater than 5 mcg/mL may be associated with increased toxicity. Concentrations should be checked after 5 days of therapy to ensure adequate drug exposure. When measured by high-pressure liquid chromatography, itraconazole and its bioactive hydroxy-itraconazole metabolite are reported, the sum of which should be considered in assessing drug levels. In adult patients, itraconazole is recommended to be loaded at 200 mg twice daily for 2 days, followed by 200 mg daily starting on the third day. Loading dose studies have not been performed in children. Itraconazole in children requires twice-daily dosing throughout treatment, compared with once-daily maintenance dosing in adults, and the key to treatment success is following drug levels. Limited pharmacokinetic data are available in children; itraconazole has not been approved by the FDA for pediatric indications. Itraconazole is indicated in adults for therapy for mild to moderate disease with blastomycosis, histoplasmosis, and others. Although it possesses antifungal activity, itraconazole is not indicated as primary therapy against invasive aspergillosis, as voriconazole is a far superior option. Itraconazole is not active against mucormycosis. Toxicity in adults is primarily hepatic.

Voriconazole was approved in 2002 and is FDA approved for children 2 years and older.¹⁰ Voriconazole is a fluconazole derivative, so think of it as having the greater tissue and CSF penetration of fluconazole but the added antifungal spectrum of itraconazole to include molds. While the bioavailability of voriconazole in adults is about 96%, multiple studies have shown that it is about only 50% to 60% in children, requiring clinicians to carefully monitor voriconazole trough concentrations in patients taking the oral formulation, further complicated by great inter-patient variability in clearance. Voriconazole serum concentrations are tricky to interpret, but monitoring these concentrations is essential to using this drug, as with all azole antifungals, and is especially important in circumstances of suspected treatment failure or possible toxicity. Most experts suggest voriconazole trough concentrations of 2 mcg/mL (at a minimum, 1 mcg/mL) or greater, which would generally exceed the pathogen's minimum inhibitory concentration. Generally, toxicity will not be seen until concentrations of about 6 mcg/mL or greater. Trough levels should be monitored 2 to 5 days after initiation of therapy and monitored again the following week to confirm that the patient remains in the therapeutic range or again 4 days after a change of dose. One important point is the acquisition of an accurate trough concentration, one obtained just before the next dose is due (not hours before solely for phlebotomy convenience) and not obtained through a catheter infusing the drug. These simple trough parameters will make interpretation possible. The fundamental voriconazole pharmacokinetics are different in adults versus children; in adults, voriconazole is metabolized in a nonlinear fashion, whereas in children, the drug is metabolized in a linear fashion. This explains the increased pediatric loading dosing for voriconazole at 9 mg/kg/dose versus loading with 6 mg/kg/dose in adult patients. Younger children, especially those younger than 3 years, require even higher dosages of voriconazole and have a larger therapeutic window for dosing. However, many studies have shown an inconsistent relationship, on a population level, between dosing and levels, highlighting the need for close monitoring after the initial dosing scheme and then dose adjustment as needed in the individual patient. For children younger than 2 years, some studies have even proposed 3-times-daily dosing to achieve sufficient serum levels. 11 Given the poor clinical and microbiological response of Aspergillus infections to AmB, voriconazole is clearly the treatment of choice for invasive aspergillosis and many other invasive mold infections (eg, pseudallescheriasis, fusariosis). Importantly, infections with mucormycosis are resistant to voriconazole. Voriconazole retains activity against most Candida spp, including some that are fluconazole resistant, but it is unlikely to replace fluconazole for treatment of fluconazole-susceptible Candida infections. Importantly, there are increasing reports of C glabrata resistance to voriconazole. Voriconazole produces some unique transient visual field abnormalities in about 10% of adults and children. There are an increasing number of reports, seen in as high as 20% of patients, of a photosensitive sunburn-like erythema that is not aided by sunscreen (only sun avoidance). In some rare long-term (mean of 3 years of therapy) cases, this voriconazole phototoxicity has developed into cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. Discontinuing voriconazole is recommended in patients experiencing chronic phototoxicity. The rash is the most common indication

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for switching from voriconazole to posaconazole/isavuconazole if a triazole antifungal is required. Other voriconazole chronic toxicities reported include fluorosis and periostitis. Hepatotoxicity is uncommon, occurring in only 2% to 5% of patients. Voriconazole is CYP metabolized (CYP2C19), and allelic polymorphisms in the population could lead to personalized dosing.¹² Results have shown that some patients of certain ethnicities will face higher toxic serum concentrations than other patients, again reiterating the need for close trough level monitoring. Voriconazole also interacts with many similarly P450-metabolized drugs to produce some profound changes in serum concentrations of many concurrently administered drugs.

Posaconazole, an itraconazole derivative, was FDA approved in 2006 as an oral suspension for adolescents 13 years and older. A delayed-release tablet formulation was approved in November 2013, also for adolescents 13 years and older, and an IV formulation was approved in March 2014 for patients 18 years and older. Effective absorption of the oral suspension strongly requires taking the medication with food, ideally a high-fat meal; taking posaconazole on an empty stomach will result in about one-fourth of the absorption as in the fed state. The tablet formulation has significantly better absorption due to its delayed release in the small intestine, but absorption will still be slightly increased with food. If the patient can take the (relatively large) tablets, the delayed-release tablet is the much-preferred form due to the ability to easily obtain higher and more consistent drug levels. Due to the low pH (<5) of IV posaconazole, a central venous catheter is required for administration. The IV formulation contains only slightly lower amounts of the cyclodextrin vehicle than voriconazole, so similar theoretic renal accumulation concerns exist. The pediatric oral suspension dose recommended by some experts for treating invasive disease is estimated to be at least 18 mg/kg/day divided 3 times daily, but even that dose has not achieved target levels. 13 A study with a new pediatric formulation for suspension, essentially the tablet form that is able to be suspended, has recently been completed and showed good tolerability. In that study, a dose of 6 mg/kg (given twice a day as a loading dose on the first day and then once daily) as an IV or formulation for oral suspension achieved target exposures that were necessary for antifungal prophylaxis, with a safety profile like that for adult patients.14 In that study, the IV formulation led to greater levels than the formulation for suspension, but both achieved target levels. A subsequent study suggests that posaconazole dosing for the delayed-release tablets and IV formulation requires likely greater daily doses for children younger than 13 years. 15 However, the exact pediatric dosing for posaconazole requires consultation with a pediatric infectious disease expert. Importantly, the delayed-release tablet cannot be broken for use due to its chemical coating. Pediatric dosing with the current IV or extended-release tablet dosing is not yet fully defined, but adolescents can likely follow the adult dosing schemes. In adult patients, IV posaconazole is loaded at 300 mg twice daily on the first day and then 300 mg once daily starting on the second day. Similarly, in adult patients, the extendedrelease tablet is dosed as 300 mg twice daily on the first day and then 300 mg once daily starting on the second day. In adult patients, the maximum amount of posaconazole oral suspension given is 800 mg/day due to its excretion, and that has been given as 400 mg

twice daily or 200 mg 4 times a day in severely ill patients due to saturable absorption and findings of a marginal increase in exposure with more frequent dosing. Greater than 800 mg/day is not indicated in any patient. As with voriconazole and itraconazole, trough levels should be monitored, and most experts feel that posaconazole levels for treatment should be greater than or equal to 1 mcg/mL (and >0.7 mcg/mL for prophylaxis). Monitor posaconazole trough levels on day 5 of therapy or soon after. The in vitro activity of posaconazole against Candida spp is better than that of fluconazole and like that of voriconazole. Overall in vitro antifungal activity against Aspergillus is also equivalent to voriconazole, but, notably, it is the first triazole with substantial activity against some mucormycosis pathogens, including Rhizopus spp and Mucor spp, as well as activity against Coccidioides, Histoplasma, and Blastomyces and the pathogens of phaeohyphomycosis. Posaconazole treatment of invasive aspergillosis in patients with chronic granulomatous disease appears to be superior to voriconazole in this specific patient population for an unknown reason. Posaconazole is eliminated by hepatic glucuronidation but does demonstrate inhibition of the CYP3A4 enzyme system, leading to many drug interactions with other P450-metabolized drugs. It is currently approved for prophylaxis of Candida and Aspergillus infections in high-risk adults and for treatment of Candida oropharyngeal disease or esophagitis in adults. Posaconazole, like itraconazole, has generally poor CSF penetration.

Isavuconazole is a new triazole that was FDA approved in March 2015 for treatment of invasive aspergillosis and invasive mucormycosis with oral (capsules only) and IV formulations. Isavuconazole has not only a similar antifungal spectrum as voriconazole but also, very importantly, activity against mucormycosis. A phase 3 clinical trial in adult patients demonstrated non-inferiority versus voriconazole against invasive aspergillosis and other mold infections, 16 and an open-label study showed activity against mucormycosis. 17 New international mucormycosis guidelines recommend isavuconazole in the setting of preexisting renal compromise (when L-AmB, the recommended primary therapy, is, therefore, not recommended). 18 Isavuconazole is actually dispensed as the prodrug isavuconazonium sulfate. Dosing in adult patients is loading with isavuconazole at 200 mg (equivalent to 372-mg isavuconazonium sulfate) every 8 hours for 2 days (6 doses), followed by 200 mg once daily for maintenance dosing. A recently completed pediatric pharmacokinetic study reports that a dose of 10 mg/kg (every 8 hours on days 1 and 2 and once daily thereafter) resulted in similar exposures and safety as seen in adults.¹⁹ The half-life is long (>5 days), there is 98% bioavailability in adults, and there is no reported food effect with oral isavuconazole. The manufacturer suggests no need for therapeutic drug monitoring, but some experts suggest trough levels may be needed in difficult-to-treat infections, and, absent well-defined therapeutic targets, the mean concentrations from phase II/III studies suggest that a range of 2 to 3 mcg/mL after day 5 is adequate exposure. Another study suggests a range of 2 to 5 mcg/mL.²⁰ To date, it seems that isavuconazole requires less dose modifications than voriconazole. Unlike voriconazole, the IV formulation does not contain the vehicle cyclodextrin, a difference that could make it more attractive in patients with renal failure. Early experience suggests a much lower rate of photosensitivity and skin disorders as well as visual disturbances, compared with voriconazole. Pediatric studies for treatment of invasive aspergillosis and mucormycosis are currently ongoing.

Echinocandins

This class of systemic antifungal agents was first approved in 2001. The echinocandins inhibit cell wall formation (in contrast to acting on the cell membrane by the polyenes and azoles) by noncompetitively inhibiting beta-1,3-glucan synthase, an enzyme present in fungi but absent in mammalian cells. These agents are generally very safe, as there is no beta-1,3-glucan in humans. The echinocandins are not metabolized through the CYP system, so fewer drug interactions are problematic, compared with the azoles. There is no need to adjust dose in renal failure, but one needs a lower dosage in the setting of very severe hepatic dysfunction. As a class, these antifungals generally have poor CSF penetration, although animal studies have shown adequate brain parenchyma levels, and do not penetrate the urine well. While the 3 clinically available echinocandins each individually have some unique and important dosing and pharmacokinetic parameters, especially in children, efficacy is generally equivalent. Opposite the azole class, the echinocandins are fungicidal against yeasts but fungistatic against molds. The fungicidal activity against yeasts has elevated the echinocandins to the preferred therapy against invasive candidiasis. Echinocandins are thought to be best used against invasive aspergillosis only as salvage therapy if a triazole fails or in a patient with suspected triazole resistance, never as primary monotherapy against invasive aspergillosis or any other invasive mold infection. Improved efficacy with combination therapy with the echinocandins and triazoles against Aspergillus infections is unclear, with disparate results in multiple smaller studies and a definitive clinical trial demonstrating minimal benefit over voriconazole monotherapy in only certain patient populations. Some experts have used combination therapy in invasive aspergillosis with a triazole plus echinocandin only during the initial phase of waiting for triazole drug levels to be appropriately high. There are reports of echinocandin resistance in Candida spp, as high as 12% in C glabrata in some studies, and the echinocandins as a class have previously been shown to be somewhat less active against Candida parapsilosis isolates (about 10%-15% respond poorly, but most are still susceptible, and guidelines still recommend echinocandin empiric therapy for invasive candidiasis). There is no therapeutic drug monitoring required for the echinocandins.

Caspofungin received FDA approval for children and teens aged 3 months to 17 years in 2008 for empiric therapy for presumed fungal infections in febrile, neutropenic patients; treatment of candidemia as well as *Candida* esophagitis, peritonitis, and empyema; and salvage therapy for invasive aspergillosis. A study in children with acute myeloid leukemia demonstrated that caspofungin prophylaxis resulted in significantly lower incidence of invasive fungal disease, compared with fluconazole prophylaxis.²¹ A study comparing caspofungin with triazole prophylaxis in pediatric allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant recipients showed no difference in the agents.²² Due to its earlier approval, there are generally more reports with caspofungin than with the other echinocandins. Caspofungin

dosing in children is calculated according to body surface area, with a loading dose on the first day of 70 mg/m², followed by daily maintenance dosing of 50 mg/m², and not to exceed 70 mg regardless of the calculated dose. Dose adjustment is unnecessary in children with mild liver dysfunction.²³ Significantly higher doses of caspofungin have been studied in adult patients without any clear added benefit in efficacy, but if the 50 mg/m² dose is tolerated and does not provide adequate clinical response, the daily dose can be increased to 70 mg/m². Dosing for caspofungin in neonates is 25 mg/m²/day.

Micafungin was approved in 2005 for adults for treatment of candidemia, *Candida* esophagitis and peritonitis, and prophylaxis of *Candida* infections in stem cell transplant recipients and in 2013 for pediatric patients 4 months and older. Micafungin has the most pediatric and neonatal data available of all 3 echinocandins, including more extensive pharmacokinetic studies surrounding dosing and several efficacy studies.²⁴⁻²⁶ Micafungin dosing in children is age dependent, as clearance increases dramatically in the younger age-groups (especially neonates), necessitating higher doses for younger children. Doses in children are generally thought to be 2 mg/kg/day, with higher doses likely needed for neonates, infants,²⁷ and younger patients and 10 mg/kg/day given to preterm neonates. Adult micafungin dosing (100 or 150 mg once daily) is to be used in patients who weigh more than 40 kg. Unlike with the other echinocandins, a loading dose is not required for micafungin. A recent prospective pediatric study showed that micafungin prophylaxis was safe and effective in children with autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant.²⁸

Anidulafungin was approved for adults for candidemia and *Candida* esophagitis in 2006 and is not officially approved for pediatric patients. Like the other echinocandins, anidulafungin is not P450 metabolized and has not demonstrated significant drug interactions. Limited pediatric pharmacokinetic data suggest weight-based dosing (3 mg/kg/day loading dose, followed by 1.5 mg/kg/day maintenance dosing).²⁹ This dosing achieves similar exposure levels in neonates and infants.²⁹ The adult dose for invasive candidiasis is a loading dose of 200 mg on the first day, followed by 100 mg daily. An open-label study of pediatric invasive candidiasis in children showed similar efficacy and minimal toxicity, comparable to those of the other echinocandins.³⁰ An additional study showed similar and acceptable pharmacokinetics in patients 1 month to 2 years of age.³¹

Triterpenoid

Ibrexafungerp was approved in June 2021 for adults with vulvovaginal candidiasis following 2 phase III studies (VANISH 203 and VANISH 306). This is the first new class of antifungals (also called "fungerps") approved since 2001. Enfumafungin, structurally distinct from the echinocandins, was discovered through screening of natural products and modified to develop this semisynthetic derivative for clinical use. Like the echinocandins, ibrexafungerp not only noncompetitively inhibits beta-1,3-glucan synthase but also destroys the fungi *Candida* and inhibits the fungi *Aspergillus*. The binding site on the glucan-synthase enzyme is not the same as on the echinocandins. Resistance or reduced

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susceptibility to the echinocandins is largely through 2 hot spot alterations in the *FKS1* gene, while many resistance alterations to ibrexafungerp are due to the *FKS2* gene, and ibrexafungerp has activity against some echinocandin-resistant isolates. Ibrexafungerp is the first orally available glucan-synthase inhibitor and has a long half-life, suggesting once-daily dosing for clinical use. As with the echinocandins, initial studies show limited to no distribution to the central nervous system and variable distribution to the eye. In a phase II study, ibrexafungerp as step-down therapy following initial echinocandin therapy for invasive candidiasis was well tolerated and achieved a favorable global response, like the standard of care. There is an ongoing coadministration study with voriconazole in pulmonary invasive aspergillosis (SCYNERGIA), as well as an ongoing recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis study (CANDLE), yet no completed pediatric studies.

7. Preferred Therapy for Specific Viral Pathogens

NOTE

• Abbreviations: AASLD, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; ART, antiretroviral therapy; ARV, antiretroviral; bid, twice daily; BSA, body surface area; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CLD, chronic lung disease; CMV, cytomegalovirus; CrCl, creatinine clearance; DAA, direct-acting antiviral; div, divided; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; EUA, Emergency Use Authorization; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy; HBeAg, hepatitis B e antigen; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HHS, US Department of Health and Human Services; HSV, herpes simplex virus; IFN, interferon; IG, immune globulin; IM, intramuscular; IV, intravenous; max, maximum; NRTI, nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor; PEP, postexposure prophylaxis; PMA, postmenstrual age (weeks of gestation since most recent menstrual period PLUS weeks of chronologic age since birth); PO, orally; PrEP, preexposure prophylaxis; PTLD, posttransplant lymphoproliferative disorder; q, every; qd, once daily; qid, 4 times daily; RAE, retinol activity equivalent; RSV, respiratory syncytial virus; SQ, subcutaneous; tab, tablet; TAF, tenofovir alafenamide; tid, 3 times daily; WHO, World Health Organization.

A. OVERVIEW OF NON-HIV, NON-HEPATITIS B OR C VIRAL PATHOGENS AND USUAL PATTERN OF SUSCEPTIBILITY **TO ANTIVIRALS**

Virus	Acyclovir	Baloxavir	Cidofovir	Famciclovir	Foscarnet	Ganciclovir
Cytomegalovirus			+		+	+
Herpes simplex virus	++			+	+	+
Influenza A and B viruses		+				
Varicella-zoster virus	++			+	+	+

Virus	Letermovir	Oseltamivir	Peramivir	Valacyclovir	Valganciclovir	Zanamivir
Cytomegalovirus	+				++	
Herpes simplex virus				++	+	
Influenza A and B viruses		++	+			+
Varicella-zoster virus				++		

NOTE: ++ = preferred; + = acceptable; [blank cell] = untested.

++e,i

B. OVERVIEW OF	HEPATITIS B OR C VIR	AL PATHOGENS AN	D USUAL PATTERN	OF SUSCEPTIBILITY	TO ANTIVIRALS
Virus	Daclatasvir Plus Sofosbuvir	Elbasvir/ Grazoprevir (Zepatier)	Entecavir	Glecaprevir/ Pibrentasvir (Mavyret)	Interferon alfa-2b
Hepatitis B virus			++		+
Hepatitis C virus ^a	+ c	∔ b,d		++ e,f	
		Ombitasvir/			

Virus	Lamivudine	Ombitasvir/ Paritaprevir/ Ritonavir Co-packaged With Dasabuvir (Viekira Pak)	Pegylated Interferon Alfa-2a	Sofosbuvir/ Ledipasvir (Harvoni)	Sofosbuvir Plus Ribavirin
Hepatitis B virus	+		+		

Virus	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir (Epclusa)	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir/ Voxilaprevir (Vosevi)	Telbivudine	Tenofovir
Hepatitis B virus			+	++
Hepatitis C virus ^a	+ +e,f	+1		

+9

NOTE: ++ = preferred; + = acceptable; [blank cell] = untested.

Hepatitis C virus^a

+ + e,h

^a HCV treatment guidelines from the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the AASLD available at www.hcvguidelines.org (accessed September 29, 2022).

^b Approved ≥12 y of age.

^fTreats genotypes 1 through 6.

¹ In children, treats genotypes 2 and 3; in adults, 1 through 4.

^c Treats genotypes 1 and 3. Not approved for children.

^g Treats genotype 1. Not approved for children.

^j Not approved for children.

^d Treats genotypes 1 and 4.

^h Treats genotypes 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Adenovirus (pneumonia or disseminated infection in immunocompromised hosts) ¹	Cidofovir and ribavirin are active in vitro, but no prospective clinical data exist and both have significant toxicity. Two cidofovir dosing schedules have been used in clinical settings: (1) 5 mg/kg/dose IV once weekly or (2) 1–1.5 mg/kg/dose IV 3 times/wk. If parenteral cidofovir is used, IV hydration and oral probenecid should be used to reduce renal toxicity.	Brincidofovir, the PO bioavailable lipophilic derivative of cidofovir also known as CMX001, has been evaluated for the treatment of adenovirus in immunocompromised hosts. It is not yet commercially available.
Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) See www.aap.org/Nelsons for coronavirus updates.	Remdesivir is approved for use in patients aged ≥28 d and weighing at least 3 kg with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, who are hospitalized or who are not hospitalized and have mild to moderate COVID-19 and risk factors for progression to severe COVID-19: Adults and pediatric patients weighing ≥40 kg: Single IV loading dose of 200 mg on day 1, followed by maintenance IV doses of 100 mg qd on and after day 2 Pediatric patients aged ≥28 d and weighing 3-<40 kg: Single IV loading dose of 5.0 mg/kg on day 1, followed by maintenance IV doses of 2.5 mg/kg qd on and after day 2 Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) has EUA from the FDA for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in persons aged ≥12 y and weighing ≥40 kg: 300 mg nirmatrelvir with 100 mg ritonavir PO bid for 5 days	Treatment duration for remdesivir is 10 days for hospitalized patients requiring invasive mechanical ventilation and/or ECMO. Treatment duration for remdesivir is 5 days for hospitalized patients not requiring invasive mechanical ventilation and/or ECMO (can be extended for up to 5 additional days based on initial clinical response). Treatment duration for remdesivir is 3 days for nonhospitalized patients diagnosed with mild to moderate COVID-19 and having risk factors for progression to severe COVID-19. Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) has numerous drug-drug interactions. Consult the listing on the FDA or Pfizer website before prescribing. Molnupiravir has EUA from the FDA for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults aged ≥18 y.

Cytomegalovirus		
– Neonatal²	See Chapter 2.	
– Immunocompromised (HIV, chemotherapy, transplant-related) ³⁻¹⁵	For induction: ganciclovir 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h for 14–21 days (AII) (may be increased to 15 mg/kg/day IV div q12h). For maintenance: 5 mg/kg IV q24h for 5–7 days per week. Duration dependent on degree of immunosuppression (AII). CMV hyperimmune globulin may decrease morbidity in bone marrow transplant patients with CMV pneumonia (AII).	Use foscarnet or cidofovir for ganciclovir-resistant strains; for HIV-positive children on HAART, CMV may resolve without anti-CMV therapy. Also used for prevention of CMV disease posttransplant for 100−120 days. Data on valganciclovir dosing in young children for treatment of retinitis are unavailable, but consideration can be given to transitioning from IV ganciclovir to oral valganciclovir after improvement of retinitis is noted. Limited data on oral valganciclovir in infants¹6.17 (32 mg/kg/day PO div bid) and children (dosing by BSA [dose (milligrams) = 7 × BSA × CrCI]).5 Maribavir (400 mg PO bid) is approved for the treatment o adult and pediatric patients (aged ≥12 y and weighing a least 35 kg) with posttransplant CMV infection/disease that is refractory to treatment (with or without genotypi resistance) with ganciclovir, valganciclovir, cidofovir, or foscarnet.

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Prophylaxis of infection in immunocompromised hosts ^{4,18}	Ganciclovir 5 mg/kg IV daily (or 3 times/wk) (started at engraftment for stem cell transplant patients) (BII) Valganciclovir at total dose in milligrams = 7 × BSA × CrCl (use max CrCl 150 mL/min/ 1.73 m²) PO qd with food for children and teens 4 mo−16 y (max dose 900 mg/day) for primary prophylaxis in HIV patients¹9 who are CMV antibody positive and have severe immunosuppression (CD4 count <50/mm³ in children ≥6 y; CD4 percentage <5% in children <6 y) (CIII) Letermovir (adults ≥18 y, CMV-seropositive recipients [R+] of an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant) 480 mg administered PO qd or as IV infusion over 1 h through 100 days posttransplant (BI)²0	Neutropenia is a complication with ganciclovir and valganciclovir prophylaxis and may be addressed with G-CSF. Prophylaxis and preemptive treatment strategies are effective, but preemptive treatment in high-risk adult liver transplant recipients is superior to prophylaxis.9 Letermovir being studied in children, but no dosing information available at this time.
Ebola	Atoltivimab/maftivimab/odesivimab-ebgn (brand name: Inmazeb) Ansuvimab-zykl (brand name: Ebanga)	For treatment of Zaire ebolavirus infections
Enterovirus	Supportive therapy; no antivirals currently FDA approved	Pocapavir PO is currently under investigation for enterovirus (poliovirus). Pleconaril PO is currently under consideration for submission to FDA for approval for treatment of neonatal enteroviral sepsis syndrome. ²¹ As of June 2022, it is not available for compassionate use.

Epstein-Barr virus		
– Mononucleosis, encephalitis ²²⁻²⁴	Limited data suggest small clinical benefit of valacyclovir in adolescents for mononucleosis (3 g/day div tid for 14 days) (CIII). For EBV encephalitis: ganciclovir IV OR acyclovir IV (AIII).	No prospective data on benefits of acyclovir IV or ganciclovir IV in EBV clinical infections of normal hosts. Patients suspected to have infectious mononucleosis should not be given ampicillin or amoxicillin, which causes nonallergic morbilliform rashes in a high proportion of patients with active EBV infection (AII). Therapy with short-course corticosteroids (prednisone 1 mg/kg/day PO [max 20 mg/day] for 7 days with subsequent tapering) may have a beneficial effect on acute symptoms in patients with marked tonsillar inflammation with impending airway obstruction, massive splenomegaly, myocarditis, hemolytic anemia, or hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (BIII).
– Posttransplant lymphoproliferative disorder ^{25,26}	Ganciclovir (AIII)	Decrease immunosuppression if possible, as this approach has the most effect on control of EBV; rituximab, methotrexate have been used but without controlled data. Preemptive treatment with ganciclovir may decrease PTLD in solid-organ transplants.

C. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC VIRAL PATHOGENS (continued)

Infection

Therapy (evidence grade)

Hepatitis B virus (chronic)^{27–45}

AASLD-preferred treatments of children and

adolescents46: IFN alfa-2b for children 1-18 v: 3 million U/m² BSA SQ 3 times/wk for 1 wk, followed by dose escalation to 6 million U/m2 BSA (max 10 million U/dose): OR entecavir for children >2 v (optimum duration of therapy unknown

Entecavir dosing IF no prior nucleoside therapy:

≥16 y: 0.5 mg gd

If prior nucleoside therapy:

2-15 v:

[BII])

10-11 kg: 0.15 mg oral solution gd >11-14 kg: 0.2 mg oral solution gd >14-17 kg: 0.25 mg oral solution gd >17-20 kg: 0.3 mg oral solution gd >20-23 kg: 0.35 mg oral solution gd >23-26 kg: 0.4 mg oral solution gd >26-30 kg: 0.45 mg oral solution gd >30 kg: 0.5 mg oral solution or tab gd

Double the dosage in each weight bracket for entecavir listed previously: OR tenofovir dipivoxil fumarate for adolescents ≥12 y and adults 300 mg gd.

NOTE: TAF is also a preferred treatment of adults (25 mg daily) but has not been studied in children.

Comments

AASLD-nonpreferred treatments of children and adults: Lamivudine 3 mg/kg/day (max 100 mg) PO g24h for 52 wk for children ≥2 v (children coinfected with HIV and HBV should use the approved dose for HIV) (AII). Lamiyudine approved for children ≥2 y, but antiviral resistance develops on therapy in 30%: OR adefovir for children ≥12 v (10 mg PO g24h for a minimum of 12 mg; optimum duration of therapy unknown) (BII); OR telbivudine (adult dose 600 mg gd). There are not sufficient clinical data to identify the appropriate dose for use in children. Indications for treatment of chronic HBV infection, with or without HIV coinfection, are (1) evidence of ongoing HBV

viral replication, as indicated by serum HBV DNA (>20,000 without HBeAq positivity or >2,000 IU/mL with HBeAg positivity) for >6 mo and persistent elevation of serum transaminase levels for >6 mo. or (2) evidence of chronic hepatitis on liver biopsy (BII). Antiviral therapy is not warranted in children without necroinflammatory liver disease (BIII). Treatment is not recommended for children with immunotolerant chronic HBV infection (ie. normal serum transaminase levels despite detectable HBV DNA) (BII).

All patients with HBV and HIV coinfection should initiate ART, regardless of CD4 count. This should include 2 drugs that have HBV activity as well, specifically tenofovir (dipivoxil fumarate or alafenamide) plus lamivudine or emtricitabine.46 Patients who are already receiving effective ART that does not include a drug with HBV activity should have treatment changed to include tenofovir (dipivoxil fumarate or alafenamide) plus lamivudine or emtricitabine; alternatively, entecavir is reasonable if patients are receiving a fully suppressive ART regimen.

Hepatitis C virus (chronic)47-54

Genotypes 1–6: daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa) (<17 kg: 37.5 mg velpatasvir with 150 mg sofosbuvir qd; 17–<30 kg: 50 mg velpatasvir with 200 mg sofosbuvir; ≥30 kg: 100 mg velpatasvir with 400 mg sofosbuvir) for patients ≥3 y with genotype 1–6 who are treatment-naive or IFN-experienced without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis OR

Daily fixed-dose combination of glecaprevir/ pibrentasvir (Mavyret) for patients ≥3 y with genotype 1–6 who are treatmentnaive or treatment-experienced without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis:

≥12 y or ≥45 kg: glecaprevir 300 mg with pibrentasvir 120 mg qd

3-11 y:

<20 kg: glecaprevir 150 mg with pibrentasvir 60 mg qd

20-<30 kg: glecaprevir 200 mg with pibrentasvir 80 mg qd

30-<45 kg: glecaprevir 250 mg with pibrentasvir 100 mg qd

Genotype 1: daily fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir (90 mg)/sofosbuvir (400 mg) (Harvoni) for patients with genotype 1 who are treatment-naive without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, or treatment-experienced with or without cirrhosis OR for patients ≥12 y elbasvir (50 mg)/ grazoprevir (100 mg) (Zepatier) ad

Treatment of HCV infections in adults has been revolutionized in recent years with the licensure of numerous highly effective DAAs for use in adults, adolescents, and children as young as 3 y. Given the efficacy of these new treatment regimens in adults (Al),⁵⁵⁻⁷⁰ treatment of children should consist only of IFN-free regimens, and an age-appropriate antiviral should be given to all HCV-infected children ≥3 y. The following treatment is recommended, based on viral genotype⁷¹: Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) and sofosbuvir in a fixed-dose combination tab with ledipasvir (Harvoni) are now approved for patients ≥3 y; sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa) is now approved for patients ≥3 y; and glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Mavyret) is now approved for patients ≥3 y.

(See www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/children [accessed September 29, 2022] for additional information [BI].)

(Continued on next page)

C. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC VIRAL PATHOGENS (continued)

Infection Therapy (evidence grade) Comments Hepatitis C virus (chronic)47-54 Genotype 2: daily sofosbuyir (400 mg) plus (continued) weight-based ribavirin (see below) for patients with genotype 2 who are treatmentnaive or treatment-experienced without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis Genotype 3: daily sofosbuvir (400 mg) plus weight-based ribavirin (see below) for patients with genotype 3 who are treatmentnaive or treatment-experienced without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis Genotype 4 in patients ≥12 y: elbasvir (50 mg)/ grazoprevir (100 mg) (Zepatier) gd Genotype 4, 5, or 6: daily fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir (90 mg)/sofosbuvir (400 mg) (Harvoni) for patients with genotype 4, 5, or 6 who are treatment-naive or treatment-experienced without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis Dosing for ribavirin in combination therapy with sofosbuvir for adolescents ≥12 y or ≥35 kg: <47 kg: 15 mg/kg/day in 2 div doses 47-59 kg: 800 mg/day in 2 div doses 60-73 kg: 400 mg in morning and 600 mg in evenina >73 kg: 1,200 mg/day in 2 div doses

Herpes simplex virus		
– Third trimester maternal suppressive therapy ⁷²⁻⁷⁴	Acyclovir or valacyclovir maternal suppressive therapy in pregnant women reduces HSV recurrences and viral shedding at the time of delivery but does not fully prevent neonatal HSV73 (BIII).	
– Neonatal	See Chapter 2.	
– Mucocutaneous (normal host)	Acyclovir 80 mg/kg/day PO div qid (max dose 800 mg) for 5–7 days, or 15 mg/kg/day IV as 1- to 2-h infusion div q8h (AII). Valacyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose (max dose 1 g) PO bid ⁷⁵ for 5–7 days (BII). Suppressive therapy for frequent recurrence (no pediatric data): acyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose bid or tid (max dose 400 mg) for 6–12 mo, then reevaluate need (AIII).	Foscarnet for acyclovir-resistant strains. Immunocompromised hosts may require 10–14 days of therapy. Topical acyclovir not efficacious and, therefore, not recommended.
– Genital	Adult doses: acyclovir 400 mg PO tid for 7–10 days; OR valacyclovir 1 g PO bid for 10 days; OR famciclovir 250 mg PO tid for 7–10 days (AI)	All 3 drugs have been used as prophylaxis to prevent recurrence. Topical acyclovir not efficacious and, therefore, not recommended.
– Encephalitis	Acyclovir 60 mg/kg/day IV as 1- to 2-h infusion div q8h; for 21 days for infants ≤4 mo. For older infants and children, 45 mg/kg/day IV as 1- to 2-h infusion div q8h (AIII).	Safety of high-dose acyclovir (60 mg/kg/day) not well- defined beyond the neonatal period; can be used but monitor for neurotoxicity and nephrotoxicity.
– Keratoconjunctivitis	1% trifluridine OR 0.15% ganciclovir ophthalmic gel (All)	Consultation with ophthalmologist required for assessment and management (eg, concomitant use of topical steroids in certain situations)

C. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC VIRAL PATHOGENS (continued)			
Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments	
HIV			
September 29, 2022); other inforr		ted at https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/guidelines (accessed ov/hiv/policies/index.html (accessed September 29, 2022). options are complicated and constantly evolving.	
- Therapy for HIV infection			
State-of-the-art therapy is rapidly evolving with introduction of new agents and combinations; currently there are many individual and fixed-dose combination ARV agents approved for use by the FDA that have pediatric indications and that continue to be actively used; guidelines for children and adolescents are continually updated on the ClinicalInfo.HIV. gov and CDC websites given previously.	Effective therapy (HAART) consists of ≥3 agents, including 2 NRTIs, plus a protease inhibitor, a non-NRTI, or an integrase inhibitor; many different combination regimens give similar treatment outcomes; choice of agents depends on the age of the child, viral load, consideration of potential viral resistance, and extent of immune depletion, in addition to judging the child's ability to adhere to the regimen. "Rapid initiation" of ART is recommended for all children, meaning initiation within days of HIV diagnosis.	Assess drug toxicity (based on the agents used) and virologic/immunologic response to therapy (quantitative plasma HIV and CD4 count) initially monthly and then q3–6mo during the maintenance phase.	
– Children of any age	Any child with AIDS or significant HIV-related symptoms (clinical category C and most B conditions) should be treated (AI). Guidance from the WHO and HHS guidelines committees now recommends treatment of all children regardless of age, CD4 count, or clinical status, with situation-specific levels of urgency.	Adherence counseling and appropriate ARV formulations are critical for successful implementation. Recently, the combination of an integrase inhibitor with 2 NRTIs has become the preferred treatment regimen for children (as well as adults). Alternative regimens may use either an NRTI or a protease inhibitor.	

– First 4 wk after birth	HAART with ≥3 drugs is recommended for all infants and children regardless of clinical status or laboratory values (AI).	Preferred therapy in the first 2 wk after birth is zidovudine and lamivudine PLUS either nevirapine or raltegravir. Preferred therapy from 2–4 wk: zidovudine and lamivudine PLUS either lopinavir/ritonavir (toxicity concerns preclude its use until a PMA of 42 wk and a postnatal age of at least 14 days is reached) or raltegravir.
– HIV-infected children 1 mo–12 y	Treat all with any CD4 count (AI).	Preferred regimens: 4 wk–6 y: 2 NRTIs PLUS dolutegravir (alternatives to dolutegravir include raltegravir or elvitegravir [>25 kg]). 6–12 y: 2 NRTIs PLUS dolutegravir OR bictegravir (alternatives to dolutegravir or bictegravir include raltegravir OR elvitegravir OR atazanavir/ritonavir OR darunavir/ritonavir).
– HIV-infected youth ≥12 y	Treat all regardless of CD4 count (AI).	Preferred regimens comprise TAF or tenofovir (adolescents/ Tanner stage 4 or 5) plus emtricitabine OR abacavir plus lamivudine PLUS dolutegravir, raltegravir, or bictegravir. NOTE: A recent report suggests the possibility of neural tube defects developing in offspring of women who become pregnant while taking dolutegravir and/or use it during the first trimester. Subsequent studies have supported safety, and the guidelines panel now recommends dolutegravir as preferred therapy for women who are planning a pregnancy (AlII) or who are pregnant (AII). NOTE: Cabenuva (injectable, long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine) has recently been approved for treatment of HIV infection for 12- to 18-year-olds. It requires an oral lead-in dosing period followed by injections q2mo (one each for cabotegravir and rilpivirine). For this treatment regimen, initiation by a pediatric/adult HIV specialist team is strongly recommended.

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
- Antiretroviral-experienced child	Consult with HIV specialist.	Consider treatment history and drug resistance testing and assess adherence.
– HIV exposures, nonoccupational	Therapy recommendations for exposures available on the CDC website at www.cdc. gov/hiv/guidelines/preventing.html (accessed September 29, 2022)	PEP remains unproven, but substantial evidence supports its use; consider individually regarding risk, time from exposure, and likelihood of adherence; prophylactic regimens administered for 4 wk.
 Negligible exposure risk (urine, nasal secretions, saliva, sweat, or tears—no visible blood in secretions) OR >72 h since exposure 	Prophylaxis not recommended (BIII)	
 Significant exposure risk (blood, semen, vaginal, or rectal secretions from a known HIV- infected individual) AND <72 h since exposure 	Prophylaxis recommended (BIII) Preferred regimens: 4 wk-<2 y: zidovudine PLUS lamivudine PLUS either raltegravir or lopinavir/ritonavir 2-12 y: tenofovir PLUS emtricitabine PLUS raltegravir ≥13 y: tenofovir PLUS emtricitabine PLUS either raltegravir or dolutegravir	Consultation with a pediatric HIV specialist is advised.
– Significant exposure risk PrEP	Truvada (tenofovir [300 mg]/emtricitabine [200 mg]): 1 tab daily	Daily PrEP has proven efficacy for prevention of HIV infection in individuals at high risk. It is FDA approved for adolescents/youth (13–24 y; ≥35 kg). Strategies for use include both episodic and continuous administration. Baseline HIV and renal function testing is indicated, and i is recommended to evaluate HIV infection status and renal function about q3mo while receiving PrEP.

- HIV exposure, occupational ⁷⁸	See guidelines on the CDC website at www. cdc.gov/hiv/guidelines/preventing.html (accessed September 29, 2022).	
Human herpesvirus 6		
– Immunocompromised children ⁷⁶	No prospective comparative data; ganciclovir 10 mg/kg/day IV div q12h used in case report (AIII)	May require high dose to control infection; safety and efficacy not defined at high doses

Influenza virus

Recommendations for the treatment of influenza can vary from season to season; access the American Academy of Pediatrics website (www.aap. org) and the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm; accessed September 29, 2022) for the most current, accurate information.

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Influenza A and B		
– Treatment ⁷⁹⁻⁸¹	Oseltamivir Preterm, <38 wk of PMA: 1 mg/kg/dose PO bid ⁷⁹ Preterm, 38–40 wk of PMA: 1.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid ⁷⁹ Preterm, 38–40 wk of PMA: 1.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid ⁷⁹ Preterm, >40 wk of PMA: 3 mg/kg/dose PO bid Full-term, birth–8 mo: 3 mg/kg/dose PO bid 9–11 mo: 3.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid ⁸⁰ 12–23 mo: 30 mg/dose PO bid 2–12 y: ≤15 kg: 30 mg bid 16–23 kg: 45 mg bid 24–40 kg: 60 mg bid >40 kg: 75 mg bid ≥13 y: 75 mg bid OR Zanamivir ≥7 y: 10 mg by inhalation bid for 5 days OR Peramivir (BII) 6 mo-<13 y: single IV dose 12 mg/kg, up to 600 mg ≥13 y: single IV dose 600 mg OR Baloxavir (BII) ≥5 y: <20 kg: single dose 2 mg/kg PO 20–79 kg: single dose 40 mg PO ≥80 kg: single dose 80 mg PO	Oseltamivir is currently drug of choice for treatment of influenza. For patients 12–23 mo, the original FDA-approved unit dose of 30 mg/dose may provide inadequate drug exposure; 3.5 mg/kg/dose PO bid has been studied,80 but study population sizes were small. Studies of parenteral zanamivir have been completed in children.82 However, this formulation of the drug is not approved in the United States and is not available for compassionate use. The adamantanes, amantadine and rimantadine, are currently not effective for treatment due to near-universal resistance of influenza A virus. Resistance to baloxavir is being monitored carefully across the world. Problems with resistance have limited use of baloxavir in Japan.

– Chemoprophylaxis	Oseltamivir 3 mo-12 y: the milligram dose given for prophylaxis is the same as for the treatment dose for all ages, but it is given qd for prophylaxis instead of bid for treatment. Zanamivir ≥5 y: 10 mg by inhalation qd for as long as 28 days (community outbreaks) or 10 days (household setting) Baloxavir ≥5 y: <20 kg: single dose 2 mg/kg PO 20-79 kg: single dose 40 mg PO ≥80 kg: single dose 80 mg PO	Oseltamivir is currently drug of choice for chemoprophylaxis of influenza. Unless the situation is judged critical, oseltamivir chemoprophylaxis is not routinely recommended for patients <3 mo because of limited safety and efficacy data in this age-group. The adamantanes, amantadine and rimantadine, are currently not effective for chemoprophylaxis due to near-universal resistance of influenza A virus.
Measles ⁸³	No prospective data on antiviral therapy. Ribavirin is active against measles virus in vitro. Vitamin A is beneficial in children with measles and is recommended by WHO for all children with measles regardless of their country of residence (qd dosing for 2 days): for children ≥1 y: 200,000 IU (60,000 mcg RAE); for infants 6−12 mo: 100,000 IU (30,000 mcg RAE); for infants <6 mo: 50,000 IU (15,000 mcg RAE) (BII). An additional (ie, a third) age-specific dose of vitamin A should be given 2−6 wk later to children with clinical signs and symptoms of vitamin A deficiency. Even in countries where measles is not usually severe, vitamin A should be given to all children with severe measles (eg, requiring hospitalization). Parenteral and oral formulations are available in the United States.	IG prophylaxis for exposed, unimmunized children: 0.5 mL/kg (max 15 mL) IM

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Monkeypox	Following consultation with the CDC, treatment may be considered in patients experiencing severe disease that prompts hospitalization or in patients likely to experience severe disease (ie, immunocompromised patients, children <8 y, pregnant/breastfeeding women): CDC-held Emergency Access Investigational New Drug protocol allows use of tecovirimat for non-variola Orthopoxvirus infection (eg, monkeypox). CDC-held Emergency Access Investigational New Drug Protocol allows use of vaccinia immune globulin intravenous for non-variola Orthopoxvirus infection (eg, monkeypox).	PrEP vaccination may be available for health care professionals, and PEP vaccination (within 4 days from date of exposure) may be available with the 2 attenuated virus vaccines that are FDA approved, through the CDC (800/CDC-INFO [800/232-4636]). Cidofovir and brincidofovir may be effective, but no data exist on either drug for treatment of monkeypox in humans (www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/treatment.html, reviewed September 15, 2022; accessed September 29, 2022).
Respiratory syncytial virus ^{84,85}		
– Therapy (severe disease in compromised host)	Ribavirin (6-g vial to make 20-mg/mL solution in sterile water), aerosolized over 18–20 h daily for 3–5 days (BII)	Aerosol ribavirin provides only a small benefit and should be considered only for use for life-threatening infection with RSV. Airway reactivity with inhalation precludes routine use.
– Prophylaxis (palivizumab, Synagis for high-risk infants) (Bl) ^{84,85}	Prophylaxis: palivizumab (a monoclonal antibody) 15 mg/kg IM monthly (max 5 doses) for the following high-risk infants (AI): In first year after birth, palivizumab prophylaxis is recommended for infants born before 29 wk 0 days' gestation.	Palivizumab does not provide benefit in the treatment of an active RSV infection. Palivizumab prophylaxis may be considered for children <24 mo who will be profoundly immunocompromised during the RSV season.

- Palivizumab prophylaxis is not recommended for otherwise healthy infants born at ≥29 wk 0 days' gestation.
- In first year after birth, palivizumab prophylaxis is recommended for preterm infants with CLD of prematurity, defined as birth at <32 wk 0 days' gestation and a requirement for >21% oxygen for at least 28 days after birth.
- Clinicians may administer palivizumab prophylaxis in the first year after birth to certain infants with hemodynamically significant heart disease.
- Palivizumab prophylaxis is not recommended in the second year after birth except for children who required at least 28 days of supplemental oxygen after birth and who continue to require medical support (supplemental oxygen, chronic corticosteroid therapy, or diuretic therapy) during the 6-mo period before the start of the second RSV season.
- Monthly prophylaxis should be discontinued in any child who experiences a breakthrough RSV hospitalization.
- Children with pulmonary abnormality or neuromuscular disease that impairs the ability to clear secretions from the upper airways may be considered for prophylaxis in the first year after birth.
- Insufficient data are available to recommend palivizumab prophylaxis for children with cystic fibrosis or Down syndrome.
- The burden of RSV disease and costs associated with transport from remote locations may result in a broader use of palivizumab for RSV prevention in Alaska Native populations and possibly in select other American Indian populations.
- Palivizumab prophylaxis is not recommended for prevention of health care—associated RSV disease.

Infection	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Varicella-zoster virus ⁸⁶	For prophylaxis/preemptive therapy following exposure in an asymptomatic child, see Chapter 15.	
– Infection in a normal host	Acyclovir 80 mg/kg/day (max single dose 800 mg) PO div qid for 5 days (AI)	The sooner antiviral therapy can be started, the greater the clinical benefit.
Severe primary chickenpox, disseminated infection (cutaneous, pneumonia, encephalitis, hepatitis); immunocompromised host with primary chickenpox or disseminated zoster	Acyclovir 30 mg/kg/day IV as 1- to 2-h infusion div q8h for 10 days (acyclovir doses of 45–60 mg/kg/day in 3 div doses IV should be used for disseminated or central nervous system infection). Dosing can also be provided as 1,500 mg/m²/day IV div q8h. Duration in immunocompromised children: 7–14 days, based on clinical response (AI).	Oral valacyclovir, famciclovir, foscarnet also active

8. Choosing Among Antiviral Agents

As a general rule, antiviral agents are specific to certain families of viruses. That is, the anti-herpesvirus drugs do not work against influenza, the anti-hepatitis C drugs do not work against hepatitis B, and so on. While some antiviral agents (eg, ribavirin, remdesivir) may have cross-family coverage, an antiviral drug that is broad enough in spectrum to cover multiple types of viruses and, thus, be used empirically in many situations simply does not exist at this point. It, therefore, is imperative that clinicians think through what viruses need to be covered when they are selecting which specific antiviral agent to use. For this reason, this chapter is structured by virus family.

Anti-herpesvirus Drugs

Broadly speaking, anti-herpesvirus drugs should be considered by subfamily within the broader Herpesviridae family. Herpes simplex virus (HSV) and varicella-zoster virus (VZV) are in the alpha subfamily, cytomegalovirus is in the beta subfamily, and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is in the gamma subfamily.

The antiviral drug of choice for the alpha herpesviruses (ie, HSV, gingivostomatitis/fever blisters, genital infection, neonatal infection; VZV, chickenpox, shingles) is acyclovir, a nucleoside analogue that is available intravenously or orally. Orally administered acyclovir (given in divided doses 4 or 5 times each day as tablets, capsules, or suspension) is poorly absorbed. However, the valine ester prodrug of acyclovir, valacyclovir, has enhanced bioavailability and twice-daily dosing that makes it an attractive option if the patient is old enough to be able to take it. Valacyclovir does not come in a liquid formulation, but there is a recipe for creation of a suspension in the package insert that allows for the compounding of a product that has a 28-day shelf life. There are data for dosing of valacyclovir in pediatric patients, although not in very young infants. Famciclovir (the prodrug of penciclovir), also a nucleoside analogue like acyclovir, is approved in adults for genital HSV and shingles, but there are far less pediatric data on efficacy. Although pediatric dosing recommendations are provided in the package label for infants and children, no suspension formulation has been approved; we prefer acyclovir to famciclovir based on much more extensive published pediatric data. Resistance to this class of antiviral may occur with repeated treatment courses. Alternatives include cidofovir and foscarnet, but each of these has significant toxicity issues that limit their use more widely.

For the beta herpesviruses, ganciclovir (another nucleoside analogue) is the antiviral agent of choice, also available either intravenously or orally. When oral dosing is an option, the valine ester prodrug of ganciclovir, valganciclovir, is used. Valganciclovir has improved bioavailability relative to oral ganciclovir. Cidofovir and foscarnet also have activity against the beta herpesviruses but, as mentioned previously, have toxicity issues that limit the use. The newest antiviral drug with activity against human cytomegalovirus

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that is approved for use in adults is letermovir, a DNA terminase complex inhibitor. Studies of letermovir in the pediatric population are underway.

There are no antiviral agents with excellent activity against the gamma herpesviruses. In general, ganciclovir or its prodrug, valganciclovir, is used when activity is desired against EBV. The degree of benefit that either of these drugs provides, though, is unproven.

Anti-influenza Drugs

The drug of choice for influenza treatment in children is oseltamivir, a neuraminidase inhibitor, which is available only as an oral formulation. Zanamivir, also a neuraminidase inhibitor, is an active antiviral agent against most current strains of influenza but is available only in the United States as an inhalation formulation. Zanamivir is about as effective as oseltamivir, but its inhaled delivery mechanism has limited its use. Peramivir is another neuraminidase inhibitor given only intravenously as a single dose for uncomplicated outpatient influenza for patients down to 6 months of age; starting an intravenous line and infusing peramivir over 15 to 30 minutes may be difficult in many clinic settings. All the neuraminidase inhibitors should be given as early as possible in the influenza illness, preferably within 48 hours of onset of illness. Influenza may mutate to develop resistance to the neuraminidase inhibitors at any time, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention keeps track of global resistance patterns and shares current information on its website.

Baloxavir is the first approved endonuclease inhibitor drug in this class for influenza; it prevents replication of virus at a very early stage in cell infection. It requires only a single dose for treatment of uncomplicated outpatient influenza infection in adults, with published data in children down to 1 year of age documenting similar efficacy. Studies for complicated influenza in hospitalized adults (multiple daily doses) have not yet been published, and trials in children for complicated influenza have not begun. Experience with this drug is limited in the United States at this time, but we are concerned about the relative rapid development of resistance, which has been a major problem with baloxavir use globally.

In addition to treating active infection, oseltamivir, zanamivir, and baloxavir are also approved for prophylaxis following influenza exposure.

Anti-hepatitis Drugs

The development of drugs that are active against hepatitis C virus (HCV) has been one of the most remarkable aspects of antiviral drug development over the past 10 years. There are currently 4 antiviral drugs with activity against HCV that are approved for use in children 3 years and older: sofosbuvir/ledipasvir (Harvoni), sofosbuvir plus ribavirin, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa), and glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Mavyret). Mavyret and Epclusa demonstrate transgenotype activity and, therefore, can be used with any genotype of HCV. There is also 1 HCV antiviral drug approved for use in children 12 years and

older: elbasvir/grazoprevir (Zepatier). Given the pace of development, it is reasonable to anticipate that additional antiviral drugs with HCV activity are likely to be approved in children over the upcoming months and years. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all HCV-infected children 3 years and older be treated with an age-approved antiviral regimen.

Anti-coronavirus Drugs

As of June 2022, remdesivir is the only antiviral drug with activity against coronaviruses. It is approved for use in persons 6 months and older for use against SARS-CoV-2. In addition, nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) has received Emergency Use Authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 disease in persons aged 12 years and older and weighing 40 kg or more. Molnupiravir has received Emergency Use Authorization for treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 disease in persons 18 years and older.

9. Preferred Therapy for Specific Parasitic Pathogens

NOTES

- Many of the parasitic infections listed in this chapter are not common, and current advice from your local infectious disease/tropical medicine/global health specialist may be invaluable. For some parasitic diseases, therapy may be available only from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as noted. The CDC also provides up-to-date information about parasitic diseases and current treatment recommendations at www.cdc.gov/parasites (accessed September 30, 2022). Consultation is available from the CDC for parasitic disease diagnostic services (www.cdc.gov/dpdx; accessed September 30, 2022); for parasitic disease testing and experimental therapy, 404/639-3670; and for malaria, 770/488-7788 or 855/856-4713 toll-free, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (ET), and the emergency number is 770/488-7100 for after hours, weekends, and holidays (correct as of September 30, 2022). Antiparasitic drugs available from the CDC Drug Service can be reviewed and requested at www.cdc.gov/laboratory/drugservice/index.html (accessed September 30, 2022).
- Additional information about many of the organisms and diseases mentioned here, along with treatment recommendations, can be found in the appropriate sections in the American Academy of Pediatrics *Red Book*.
- Abbreviations: AmB, amphotericin B; A-P, atovaquone/proguanil; ASTMH, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; bid, twice daily; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CNS, central nervous system; CrCl, creatinine clearance; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; CT, computed tomography; DEC, diethylcarbamazine; div, divided; DS, double-strength; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; G6PD, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase; GI, gastrointestinal; IDSA, Infectious Diseases Society of America; IM, intramuscular; IND, investigational new drug; IV, intravenous; LP, lumbar puncture; max, maximum; MF, microfilariae; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; NECT, nifurtimox-eflornithine combination therapy; PAIR, puncture, aspiration, injection, re-aspiration; PHMB, polyhexamethylene biguanide; PO, orally; q, every; qd, once daily; qid, 4 times daily; qod, every other day; spp, species; SQ, subcutaneous; tab, tablet; TB, tuberculosis; TD, travelers diarrhea; tid, 3 times daily; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.

	Albendazole/ Mebendazole	Triclabendazole	Metronidazole/ Tinidazole	Praziquantel	lvermectin	Nitazoxanide	DEC	Pyrantel Pamoate	Paromomycin	TMP/SMX
Ascariasis	++				+	+		+		
Blastocystis spp			+			+			+	+
Cryptosporidiosis						+			+	
Cutaneous larva migrans	++				++					
Cyclosporiasis						+				++
Cystoisospora spp						+				++
Dientamoebiasis	_		++			+			+	
Liver fluke Clonorchis and Opisthorchis	+			++						
Fasciola hepatica and Fasciola gigantica		++				+				
Lung fluke	_			++						
Giardia spp	+		++			++			+	
Hookworm	++				_			+		
Loiasis	+				-		++			
Mansonella ozzardi	_				+		_			
Mansonella perstans	±			-	-		±			

Onchocerciasis				++				
Pinworm	++						++	
Schistosomiasis			++	-				
Strongyloides spp	+			++				
Tapeworm			++	-	+			
Toxocariasis	++					+		
Trichinellosis	++							
Trichomoniasis		++		-				
Trichuriasis	++							
Wuchereria bancrofti	+					++		

NOTE: ++ = preferred; + = acceptable; ± = possibly effective (see text for further discussion); - = unlikely to be effective; [blank cell] = untested.

Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments
Acanthamoeba	See Amebic meningoencephalitis later in this table.	
Amebiasis ¹⁻⁵		
Entamoeba histolytica		
– Asymptomatic intestinal colonization	Paromomycin 25–35 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 7 days; OR iodoquinol 30–40 mg/kg/day (max 650 mg/dose) PO div tid for 20 days; OR diloxanide furoate (not commercially available in United States) 20 mg/kg/ day PO div tid (max 500 mg/dose) for 10 days (CII)	Follow-up stool examination to ensure eradication of carriage; screen/treat positive close contacts. Entamoeba dispar, Entamoeba moshkovskii, and Entamoeba polecki do not require treatment.
– Mild to moderate intestinal disease	Metronidazole 35–50 mg/kg/day (max 500–750 mg/dose) PO div tid for 7–10 days; OR tinidazole (age >3 y) 50 mg/kg/day PO (max 2 g) qd for 3 days; OR nitazoxanide (age ≥12 y, 500 mg bid for 3 days; ages 4–11 y, 200 mg bid for 3 days; ages 1–3 y, 100 mg bid for 3 days) FOLLOWED BY paromomycin or iodoquinol, as above, to eliminate cysts (BII)	Treatment options for severe and extraintestinal disease are like those for mild to moderate disease except that the need for broad-spectrum antibiotics should be considered in the event of superimposed bacterial infection and the need for site-specific treatment in extraintestinal infection such as liver abscess. Use of paromomycin for clearance of intestinal infection should be delayed if there is concern for intestinal perforation. Avoid antimotility drugs, steroids. Tinidazole (evaluated by the FDA for children ≥3 y), when available, may be more effective with fewer adverse events than metronidazole. Take tinidazole with food to decrease GI side effects; pharmacists can crush tabs and mix with syrup for those unable to take tabs. Avoid alcohol ingestion with metronidazole and tinidazole. Preliminary data support use of nitazoxanide to treat clinical infection, but it may not prevent parasitological failure.

– Liver abscess, extraintestinal disease Amebic	Metronidazole 35–50 mg/kg/day IV q8h, switch to PO when tolerated, for 7–10 days; OR tinidazole (age >3 y) 50 mg/kg/day PO (max 2 g) qd for 5 days; OR nitazoxanide (age ≥12 y, 500 mg bid for 3 days; ages 4–11 y, 200 mg bid for 3 days; ages 1–3 y, 100 mg bid for 3 days) FOLLOWED BY paromomycin or iodoquinol, as above, to eliminate cysts (BII).	Serologic assays >95% positive in extraintestinal amebiasis. Percutaneous or surgical drainage may be indicated for large liver abscesses or inadequate response to medical therapy. Avoid alcohol ingestion with metronidazole and tinidazole. Take tinidazole with food to decrease GI side effects; pharmacists can crush tabs and mix with syrup for those unable to take tabs.
meningoencephalitis ^{6–10}		
Naegleria fowleri	AmB 1.5 mg/kg/day IV div q12h for 3 days, then 1 mg/kg/day qd for 11 days; PLUS AmB intrathecally	Treatment recommendations based on regimens used for 5 known survivors; available at www.cdc.gov/

parasites/naegleria/treatment-hcp.html (accessed September 30, 2022).

Conventional amphotericin preferred; liposomal AmB is less effective in animal models.

Treatment outcomes usually unsuccessful; early therapy (even before diagnostic confirmation if indicated) may improve survival.

Miltefosine is available commercially (contact www. impavido.com for help in obtaining the drug); CDC provides expertise in treatment of patients with N fowleri infection (770/488-7100).

Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments
Acanthamoeba	Combination regimens including miltefosine, fluconazole, and pentamidine favored by some experts; TMP/SMX, metronidazole, and a macrolide may be added. Other drugs that have been used alone or in combination include rifampin, other azoles, sulfadiazine, flucytosine, and caspofungin. Keratitis: topical therapies include PHMB (0.02%) or biguanide chlorhexidine, combined with propamidine isethionate (0.1%) or hexamidine (0.1%) (topical therapies not approved in United States but available at compounding pharmacies).	Optimal treatment regimens uncertain; combination therapy favored. Miltefosine is available commercially (contact www. impavido.com for help in obtaining the drug). CDC is available for consultation about management of these infections (770/488-7100). Keratitis should be evaluated by an ophthalmologist. Prolonged treatment often needed.
Balamuthia mandrillaris	Combination regimens preferred. Drugs that have been used alone or in combination include pentamidine, 5-flucytosine, fluconazole, macrolides, sulfadiazine, miltefosine, thioridazine, AmB, itraconazole, and albendazole.	Optimal treatment regimen uncertain; regimens based on case reports; prolonged treatment often needed. Surgical resection of CNS lesions may be beneficial. CDC is available for consultation about management of these infections (770/488-7100).
Ancylostoma braziliense	See Cutaneous larva migrans later in this table.	
Ancylostoma caninum	See Cutaneous larva migrans later in this table.	
Ancylostoma duodenale	See Hookworm later in this table.	

Angiostrongyliasis 11-14		
Angiostrongylus cantonensis (cerebral disease)	Supportive care	Most patients recover without antiparasitic therapy; anthelmintic treatment may provoke worsening of neurologic symptoms. Corticosteroids, analgesics, and repeated LP may be of benefit. Prednisolone (1–2 mg/kg/day, up to 60 mg qd, in 2 div doses, for 2 wk) may shorten duration of headache and reduce need for repeated LP. Ocular disease may require surgery or laser treatment.
Angiostrongylus costaricensis (eosinophilic enterocolitis)	Supportive care	Surgery may be pursued to exclude another diagnosis, such as appendicitis, or to remove inflamed intestine.
Ascariasis (Ascaris lumbricoides) ¹⁵	First line: albendazole 400 mg PO once OR mebendazole 500 mg once or 100 mg bid for 3 days (BII) Pregnant women: pyrantel pamoate 11 mg/kg, max 1 g once Alternatives: ivermectin 150–200 mcg/kg PO once (CII); nitazoxanide Ages 1–3 y: 100 mg PO bid for 3 days Ages 4–11 y: 200 mg PO bid for 3 days Age ≥12 y: 500 mg PO bid for 3 days	Follow-up stool ova and parasite examination after therapy not essential. Take albendazole with food (bioavailability increases with food, especially fatty meals). Albendazole has theoretical risk of causing seizures in patients coinfected with cysticercosis.

Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments
Babesiosis (Babesia spp) ¹⁶⁻²⁰	Mild to moderate disease: azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day (max 500 mg/dose) PO on day 1; 5 mg/kg/day from day 2 on (max 250 mg/dose) for 7–10 days PLUS atovaquone 40 mg/kg/day (max 750 mg/dose) PO div bid (this regimen preferred due to fewer adverse events) OR clindamycin 20–40 mg/kg/day IV div tid or qid (max 600 mg/dose), PLUS quinine 24 mg/kg/day PO (max 650 mg/dose) div tid for 7–10 days Severe disease: azithromycin 5–10 mg/kg/day (max 500 mg/dose) IV for 7–10 days PLUS atovaquone 40 mg/kg/day (max 750 mg/dose) PO div bid; OR clindamycin 20–40 mg/kg/day IV div tid or qid (max 650 mg/dose), PLUS quinine 25 mg/kg/day PO (max 650 mg/dose) div tid for 7–10 days Can transition from IV to oral therapy when symptoms improve and parasitemia declines	Most asymptomatic infections with <i>Babesia microti</i> in immunocompetent individuals do not require treatment. Daily monitoring of hematocrit and percentage of parasitized red blood cells (until <5%) is helpful in guiding management. Exchange blood transfusion may be of benefit for severe disease and <i>Babesia divergens</i> infection. Higher doses of medications and prolonged therapy may be needed for asplenic or immunocompromised individuals. Clindamycin and quinine remain the regimen of choice for <i>B divergens</i> .
Balantidium coli ²¹	Tetracycline (patients >7 y) 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 10 days (max 2 g/day) (CII); OR metronidazole 35–50 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 5 days (max 750 mg/ dose); OR iodoquinol 30–40 mg/kg/day PO (max 650 mg/dose) div tid for 20 days	Optimal treatment regimen uncertain. Prompt stool examination may increase detection of rapidly degenerating trophozoites. None of these medications have been evaluated by the FDA for this indication. Nitazoxanide may also be effective.
Baylisascaris procyonis (raccoon roundworm) ^{22,23}	Albendazole 25–50 mg/kg/day PO for 10–20 days given as soon as possible (<3 days) after exposure (eg, proactive therapy following ingestion of raccoon feces or contaminated soil) might prevent clinical disease (CIII).	Therapy generally unsuccessful to prevent fatal outcome or severe neurologic sequelae once CNS disease present. Steroids may be of value in decreasing inflammation in CNS or ocular infection. Albendazole bioavailability increased with food, especially fatty meals.

Blastocystis spp ^{24,25}	Specific treatment rarely indicated. Metronidazole 35–50 mg/kg/day (max 750 mg/dose) PO div tid for 5–10 days (BII); OR tinidazole 50 mg/kg (max 2 g) once (age >3 y) (BII).	Pathogenesis debated. Asymptomatic individuals do not need treatment; diligent search for other pathogenic parasites recommended for symptomatic individuals with <i>Blastocystis</i> spp. Paromomycin, nitazoxanide (500 mg PO bid for age ≥12 y; 200 mg PO bid for 3 days for ages 4–11 y; 100 mg PO bid for 3 days for ages 1–3 y), and TMP/SMX may also be effective. Metronidazole resistance may occur. Take tinidazole with food; tabs may be crushed and mixed with flavored syrup.
Brugia malayi, Brugia timori	See Filariasis later in this table.	
Chagas disease (Trypanosoma cruzi) ^{26–28}	See Trypanosomiasis later in this table.	
Clonorchis sinensis	See Flukes later in this table.	
Cryptosporidiosis (Cryptosporidium parvum) ²⁹⁻³²	Nitazoxanide Ages 1–3 y: 100 mg PO bid for 3 days. Ages 4–11 y: 200 mg PO bid for 3 days. Age ≥12 y: 500 mg PO bid for 3 days (BII). Paromomycin 25–35 mg/kg/day div bid–qid (CII); OR azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day for 5 days (CII); OR paromomycin AND azithromycin given as combination therapy may yield initial response but may not result in sustained cure in immunocompromised individuals.	Recovery depends largely on the immune status of the host; treatment not required in all immunocompetent individuals. Medical therapy may have limited efficacy in HIV-infected patients not receiving effective antiretroviral therapy. Longer courses (>2 wk) may be needed in solid-organ transplant patients. Nitazoxanide has been evaluated by the FDA for cryptosporidiosis and is approved for this infection.

B. PREFERRED THERAPY	FOR SPECIFIC PARASITIC PATHOGENS (continue	ed)
Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments
Cutaneous larva migrans or creeping eruption ^{33,34} (dog and cat hookworm) (Ancylostoma caninum, Ancylostoma braziliense, Uncinaria stenocephala)	Ivermectin 200 mcg/kg PO for 1 day (weight >15 kg) (CII); OR albendazole (age >2 y) 15 mg/kg/day (max 400 mg) PO qd for 3 days (CII)	Albendazole bioavailability increased with food, especially fatty meals. The FDA has not reviewed data on the safety and efficacy of ivermectin in children weighing <15 kg, and data on albendazole in children aged <2 y are limited. For individual children, the benefits of treatment are likely to outweigh risks.
Cyclospora spp ^{35–37} (cyanobacterium-like agent)	TMP/SMX 8–10 mg TMP/kg/day (max 1 DS tab bid) PO div bid for 7–10 days (BIII)	HIV-infected patients may require higher doses/longer therapy. Nitazoxanide may be an alternative for TMP/SMX-allergic patients.
Cysticercosis ³⁸⁻⁴¹ (Cysticercus cellulosae; larva of Taenia solium)	Neurocysticercosis Patients with 1–2 viable parenchymal cysticerci: albendazole 15 mg/kg/day PO div bid (max 1,200 mg/day) for 10–14 days PLUS steroids (prednisone 1 mg/kg/day or dexamethasone 0.1 mg/ kg/day) begun at least 1 day before antiparasitic therapy, continued during antiparasitic treatment followed by rapid taper (to reduce inflammation associated with dying organisms) Patients with >2 viable parenchymal cysticerci: albendazole 15 mg/kg/day PO div bid (max 1,200 mg/day) for 10–14 days PLUS praziquantel 50 mg/kg/day PO div tid (CII) for 10–14 days plus steroids (prednisone 1 mg/kg/day or dexamethasone 0.1 mg/kg/day) begun at least 1 day before antiparasitic therapy, continued during antiparasitic treatment followed by rapid taper (to reduce inflammation associated with dying organisms)	Collaboration with a specialist with experience treating this condition is recommended. See IDSA-ASTMH guidelines. ⁴¹ For infection caused by only 1–2 cysts, some do not use steroid therapy routinely with active treatment. Management of seizures, cerebral edema, intracranial hypertension, or hydrocephalus, when present, is the focus of initial therapy and may require antiepileptic drugs, neuroendoscopy, or surgical approaches before considering antiparasitic therapy. Imaging with both CT and MRI is recommended for classifying disease in patients newly diagnosed with neurocysticercosis. Optimal dose and duration of steroid therapy are uncertain. Screening for TB infection and <i>Strongyloides</i> is recommended for patients likely to require prolonged steroid therapy. Take albendazole with food (bioavailability increases with food, especially fatty meals).

Cystoisospora (formerly Isospora) belli ⁴²	Age >2 mo: TMP/SMX 8–10 mg TMP/kg/day PO (or IV) div bid for 7–10 days (max 160 mg TMP/800 mg SMX bid)	Infection often self-limited in immunocompetent hosts; consider treatment if symptoms do not resolve by 5–7 days or are severe. Pyrimethamine plus leucovorin, ciprofloxacin, and nitazoxanide are alternatives. Immunocompromised patients should be treated; longer courses or suppressive therapy may be needed for severely immunocompromised patients.
Dientamoebiasis ^{43,44} (<i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i>)	Metronidazole 35–50 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 10 days (max 750 mg/dose); OR paromomycin 25–35 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 7 days; OR iodoquinol 30–40 mg/kg/day (max 650 mg/dose) PO div tid for 20 days (BII)	Routine treatment of asymptomatic individuals not indicated. Treatment indicated when no other cause except <i>Dientamoeba</i> found for abdominal pain or diarrhea lasting >1 wk. Take paromomycin with meals and iodoquinol after meals. Tinidazole, nitazoxanide, tetracycline, and doxycycline may also be effective. Albendazole and mebendazole have no activity against <i>Dientamoeba</i> .
Diphyllobothrium latum	See Tapeworms later in this table.	
Dipylidium caninum	See Tapeworms later in this table.	
Echinococcosis ^{45,46}		
Echinococcus granulosus	Albendazole 10–15 mg/kg/day PO div bid (max 800 mg/day) for 1–6 mo alone (CIII) or as adjunctive therapy with surgery or percutaneous treatment; initiate 4–30 days before and continue for at least 1 mo after surgery.	Involvement with specialist with experience treating this condition strongly recommended. Surgery is the treatment of choice for management of complicated cysts. PAIR technique effective for appropriate cysts. Mebendazole is an alternative if albendazole is unavailable; if used, continue for 3 mo after PAIR. Take albendazole with food (bioavailability increases with food, especially fatty meals).

B. PREFERRED THERAPY	FOR SPECIFIC PARASITIC PATHOGENS (continu	ued)
Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments
Echinococcus multilocularis	Surgical treatment generally the treatment of choice; postoperative albendazole 10–15 mg/kg/day PO div bid (max 800 mg/day) should be administered to reduce relapse; duration uncertain (at least 2 y with long-term monitoring for relapse). Benefit of preoperative albendazole unknown.	Involvement with specialist with experience treating this condition recommended. Take albendazole with food (bioavailability increases with food, especially fatty meals).
Entamoeba histolytica	See Amebiasis earlier in this table.	
Enterobius vermicularis	See Pinworms later in this table.	
Fasciola hepatica	See Flukes later in this table.	
Fasciolopsis buski	See Flukes later in this table.	
Eosinophilic meningitis	See Angiostrongyliasis earlier in this table.	
Filariasis ^{47–50}		
– River blindness (<i>Onchocerca</i> volvulus)	Ivermectin 150 mcg/kg PO once (All); repeat q3–6mo until asymptomatic and no ongoing exposure; OR if no ongoing exposure, doxycycline 4 mg/kg/day PO (max 200 mg/day div bid) for 6 wk followed by a single dose of ivermectin; may provide 1 dose of ivermectin for symptomatic relief 1 wk before beginning doxycycline.	Doxycycline targets Wolbachia, the endosymbiotic bacteria associated with O volvulus. Assess for Loa loa coinfection before using ivermectin if exposure occurred in settings where both Onchocerca and L loa are endemic. Optimal treatment of onchocerciasis in the setting of L loa infection is uncertain; consultation with a specialist familiar with these diseases is recommended. Moxidectin (8 mg PO once) was FDA approved in 2018 for adults and children ≥12 y, for treatment of onchocerciasis (to kill MF); not yet available commercially in United States. Screening for loiasis recommended before use. Safety and efficacy of repeated doses have not been studied. The FDA has not reviewed information on safety and efficacy in children <12 y.

– Tropical pulmonary eosinophilia ⁵¹	DEC (from CDC) 6 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 14–21 days; corticosteroids to reduce inflammation; bronchodilators for bronchospasm (CII)	DEC is available from CDC Drug Service at 404/639-3670.	
Loa loa	Symptomatic loiasis with MF of <i>L loa/</i> mL <8,000: DEC (from CDC) 8–10 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 21 days Symptomatic loiasis, with MF/mL ≥8,000: apheresis followed by DEC Albendazole (symptomatic loiasis, with MF/mL <8,000 and failed 2 rounds of DEC, OR symptomatic loiasis, with MF/mL ≥8,000 to reduce level to <8,000 before treatment with DEC) 200 mg PO bid for 21 days	Involvement with specialist with experience treating this condition recommended. Quantification of microfilarial levels is essential before treatment. Do not use DEC if onchocerciasis is present. Apheresis or albendazole may be used to reduce microfilarial levels before treatment with DEC.	
Mansonella ozzardi	lvermectin 200 mcg/kg PO once	DEC and albendazole not effective	
Mansonella perstans	Combination therapy with DEC and mebendazole may be effective.	Relatively resistant to DEC, ivermectin, albendazole, and mebendazole; doxycycline 4 mg/kg/day PO (max 200 mg/day div bid) for 6 wk beneficial for clearing microfilaria in Mali and Ghana	
Wuchereria bancrofti, Brugia malayi, Brugia timori, Mansonella streptocerca	DEC (from CDC) 6 mg/kg/day div tid for 12 days OR 6 mg/kg/day PO as a single dose (All)	Avoid DEC with <i>Onchocerca</i> and <i>L loa</i> coinfection. Doxycycline (4 mg/kg/day PO, max 200 mg/day div bid, for 4–6 wk) may be considered; effectiveness of doxycycline in <i>M streptocerca</i> unknown. Albendazole has activity against adult worms. DEC is available from CDC (404/639-3670).	
Flukes			
Intestinal fluke (Fasciolopsis buski)	Praziquantel 75 mg/kg PO div tid for 1 day (BII)		
sinensis, Opisthorchis spp) albendazole 10 mg/kg/day PO for 7 days (CIII). Take albendazole 10 mg/kg/day PO for 7 days (CIII).		Take praziquantel with liquids and food. Take albendazole with food (bioavailability increases with food, especially fatty meals).	

Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments	
– Lung fluke ^{54,55} (<i>Paragonimus</i> westermani and other <i>Paragonimus</i> lung flukes)	Praziquantel 75 mg/kg/day PO div tid for 2 days (BII) Triclabendazole 10 mg/kg/dose PO bid for 1 day (approved for children ≥6 y for fascioliasis)	Triclabendazole should be taken with food to facilitate absorption. A short course of corticosteroids may reduce inflammatory response around dying flukes in cerebral disease.	
– Sheep liver fluke ⁵⁶ (Fasciola hepatica, Fasciola gigantica)	Triclabendazole 10 mg/kg/dose PO bid for 1 day (FDA evaluated for age \geq 6 y) (BII) OR nitazoxanide PO (take with food), ages 12–47 mo, 100 mg/dose bid for 7 days; ages 4–11 y, 200 mg/dose bid for 7 days; age \geq 12 y, 1 tab (500 mg)/dose bid for 7 days (CII).	Responds poorly to praziquantel; albendazole and mebendazole ineffective. Triclabendazole should be taken with food to facilitate absorption.	
Giardiasis (Giardia intestinalis or Giardia duodenalis (formerly lamblia]) ^{57–59}	Tinidazole 50 mg/kg/day (max 2 g) PO for 1 day (approved for age >3 y) (BII); OR nitazoxanide PO (take with food), ages 1−3 y, 100 mg/dose bid for 3 days; ages 4−11 y, 200 mg/dose bid for 3 days; age ≥12 y, 500 mg/dose bid for 3 days (BII).	Alternatives: metronidazole 15 mg/kg/day (max 250 mg/dose) PO div tid for 5–7 days (BII); albendazole 10–15 mg/kg/day (max 400 mg/dose) PO for 5 days (CII) OR mebendazole 200 mg PO tid for 5 days; OR paromomycin 30 mg/kg/day div tid for 5–10 days; furazolidone 8 mg/kg/day (max 100 mg/dose) in 4 doses for 7–10 days (not available in United States); quinacrine (refractory cases) 6 mg/kg/day PO div tid (max 100 mg/dose) for 5 days. If therapy ineffective, may try a higher dose or longer course of the same agent, or an agent in a different class; combination therapy may be considered for refractory cases. Prolonged courses may be needed for immunocompromised patients (eg, hypogammaglobulinemia). Treatment of asymptomatic carriers not usually indicated.	

Hookworm ^{60–62} Necator americanus, Ancylostoma duodenale	Albendazole 400 mg once (repeated dose may be necessary) (BII); OR mebendazole 100 mg PO for 3 days OR 500 mg PO once; OR pyrantel pamoate 11 mg/kg (max 1 g/day) (BII) PO qd for 3 days.	
Hymenolepis nana	See Tapeworms later in this table.	
Isospora belli	See Cystoisospora belli earlier in this table under Cysticercosis.	
Leishmaniasis ⁶³⁻⁷⁰ (including kala-azar) <i>Leishmania</i> spp	Visceral: liposomal AmB 3 mg/kg/day on days 1–5, day 14, and day 21 (Al); OR miltefosine 2.5 mg/kg/day PO (max 150 mg/day) for 28 days (BII) (FDA-approved regimen: 50 mg PO bid for 28 days for weight 30–44 kg; 50 mg PO tid for 28 days for weight ≥45 kg); other AmB products available but not evaluated by the FDA for this indication. Cutaneous and mucosal disease: there is no generally accepted treatment of choice; treatment decisions should be individualized. Uncomplicated cutaneous: combination of debridement of eschars, cryotherapy, thermotherapy, intralesional pentavalent antimony, and topical paromomycin (not available in United States). Complicated cutaneous: oral or parenteral systemic therapy with miltefosine 2.5 mg/kg/day PO (max 150 mg/day) for 28 days (FDA-approved regimen: 50 mg PO bid for 28 days for weight 30–44 kg; 50 mg PO tid for 28 days for weight ≥45 kg) (BII); OR pentamidine isethionate 2–4 mg/kg/day IV or IM qod for 4–7 doses; OR amphotericin (various regimens); OR azoles (fluconazole 200 mg PO qd for 6 wk; or ketoconazole or itraconazole); also intralesional and topical alternatives.	Consultation with a specialist familiar with management of leishmaniasis is strongly advised, especially when treating patients with HIV coinfection. See IDSA-ASTMH guidelines for <i>Leishmania</i> . ⁶³ Region where infection acquired, spp of <i>Leishmania</i> , skill of practitioner with some local therapies, and drugs available in United States affect therapeutic choices. For immunocompromised patients with visceral disease, FDA-approved dosing of liposomal amphotericin is 4 mg/kg on days 1–5, 10, 17, 24, 31, and 38, with further therapy on an individual basis. See guidelines for use of pentavalent antimonial drugs for visceral, mucosal, or complicated cutaneous leishmaniasis.

B. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC PARASITIC PATHOGENS (continued)			
Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments	
Leishmaniasis ^{63–70} (including kala-azar) <i>Leishmania</i> spp (<i>continued</i>)	Mucosal: AmB (Fungizone) 0.5–1 mg/kg/day IV qd or qod for cumulative total of about 20–45 mg/kg; OR liposomal AmB about 3 mg/kg/day IV qd for cumulative total of about 20–60 mg/kg; OR miltefosine 2.5 mg/kg/day PO (max 150 mg/day) for 28 days (FDA-evaluated regimen: 50 mg PO bid for 28 days for weight 30–44 kg; 50 mg PO tid for 28 days for weight ≥45 kg); OR pentamidine isethionate 2–4 mg/kg/day IV or IM qod or 3 times/ wk for ≥15 doses (considered a lesser alternative).		
Lice Pediculosis capitis or Pediculosis humanus, Phthirus pubis ^{71,72}	Follow manufacturer's instructions for topical use: permethrin 1% (≥2 mo) OR pyrethrin (children ≥2 y) (BII); OR 0.5% ivermectin lotion (≥6 mo) (BII); OR spinosad 0.9% topical suspension (≥6 mo) (BII); OR malathion 0.5% (children ≥2 y) (BIII); OR oral ivermectin 200 mcg/kg PO once; repeat 7–10 days later (children >15 kg); OR abametapir lotion (children ≥6 mo; contains benzyl alcohol).	Launder bedding and clothing; for eyelash infestation, use petrolatum; for head lice, remove nits with comb designed for that purpose. Benzyl alcohol can be irritating to skin; systemic absorption may lead to toxicity; parasite resistance unlikely to develop. Consult specialist before re-treatment with ivermectin lotion; re-treatment with spinosad topical suspension not usually needed unless live lice seen 1 wk after treatment.	
Malaria ^{73,74}			
Plasmodium falciparum, Plasmodium vivax, Plasmodium ovale, Plasmodium malariae	CDC Malaria Hotline 770/488-7788 or 855/856-4713 toll-free (Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm [ET]) or emergency consultation after hours 770/488-7100; online information at www.cdc.gov/parasites/malaria/index.html; accessed September 30, 2022	Consultation with a specialist familiar with management of malaria is advised, especially for severe malaria. No antimalarial drug provides absolute protection against malaria; fever after return from an endemic area should prompt an immediate evaluation. Emphasize personal protective measures (insecticides, bed nets, clothing, and avoidance of dusk–dawn mosquito exposures).	

Prophylaxis See www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/index.html (accessed September 30, 2022) for current information on travel and prophylaxis. Other drugs not available in United States are used globally for

For areas with chloroquineresistant P falciparum or P vivax

A-P: 5-8 kg, ½ pediatric tab/day; ≥9-10 kg, ¾ pediatric tab/dav: $\geq 11-20 \text{ kg}$, 1 pediatric tab (62.5 mg atovaguone/25 mg proguanil); ≥21-30 kg, 2 pediatric tabs: ≥31–40 kg, 3 pediatric tabs: ≥40 kg. 1 adult tab (250 mg atoyaguone/100 mg proguanil) PO gd starting 1-2 days before travel and continuing 7 days after last exposure; for children < 5 kg, data on A-P limited (BII): OR mefloquine: for children <5 kg. 5 mg/kg; \geq 5-9 kg, $\frac{1}{8}$ tab; \geq 10-19 kg, $\frac{1}{4}$ tab; \geq 20-30 kg, ½ tab; \geq 31-45 kg, ¾ tab; \geq 45 kg (adult dose), 1 tab PO once weekly starting the wk before arrival in area and continuing for 4 wk after leaving area (BII); OR doxycycline (patients >7 y): 2 mg/kg (max 100 mg) PO gd starting 1-2 days before arrival in area and continuing for 4 wk after leaving area (BIII); OR primaguine (check for G6PD deficiency before administering): 0.5 mg/kg base gd starting 1 day before travel and continuing for 5 days after last exposure (BII)

prevention and treatment of malaria.73 Avoid mefloquine for persons with a history of seizures

or psychosis, active depression, or cardiac conduction abnormalities; see black box warning.

Avoid A-P in severe renal impairment (CrCl <30). P falciparum resistance to mefloquine exists along the borders between Thailand and Myanmar and Thailand and Cambodia, Myanmar and China, and Myanmar and Laos: isolated resistance has been reported in southern Vietnam.

Take doxycycline with adequate fluids to avoid esophageal irritation and food to avoid GI side effects: use sunscreen and avoid excessive sun exposure.

Tafenoguine FDA approved August 2018 for use in those ≥18 y; must test for G6PD deficiency before use: pregnancy testing recommended before use. Not evaluated by the FDA for those <18 y. Loading dose 200 mg daily for 3 days before travel; 200 mg weekly during travel; after return, 200 mg once 7 days after last maintenance dose; tabs must be swallowed whole. May also be used to prevent malaria in areas with chloroquine-resistant malaria.

pregnancy.

Avoid artemether/lumefantrine and mefloquine in

concomitant use of drugs that prolong QT interval.

patients with cardiac arrhythmias, and avoid

Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments
For areas without chloroquine-resistant P falciparum or P vivax	Chloroquine phosphate 5-mg base/kg (max 300-mg base) PO once weekly, beginning the wk before arrival in area and continuing for 4 wk after leaving area (available in suspension outside United States and Canada and at compounding pharmacies) (All). After return from heavy or prolonged (months) exposure to infected mosquitoes: consider treatment with primaquine (check for G6PD deficiency before administering) 0.5-mg base/kg PO qd with final 2 wk of chloroquine for prevention of relapse with <i>P ovale</i> or <i>P vivax</i> .	
Treatment of disease		See www.cdc.gov/malaria/resources/pdf/Malaria_ Treatment_Table.pdf for treatment of malaria in the United States (accessed September 30, 2022). Other drugs not available in United States are used globally for prevention and treatment of malaria. ⁷³
– Chloroquine-resistant <i>P falciparum</i> or <i>P vivax</i>	Oral therapy: artemether/lumefantrine 6 doses over 3 days at 0, 8, 24, 36, 48, and 60 h; <15 kg, 1 tab/dose; ≥15–25 kg, 2 tabs/dose; ≥25–35 kg, 3 tabs/dose; >35 kg, 4 tabs/dose (BII); A-P: for children <5 kg, data limited; ≥5–8 kg, 2 pediatric tabs (62.5 mg atovaquone/25 mg proguanil) PO qd for 3 days; ≥9–10 kg, 3 pediatric tabs qd for 3 days; ≥11–20 kg, 1 adult tab (250 mg atovaquone/100 mg proguanil) qd for 3 days; >20–30 kg, 3 adult tabs qd for 3 days; >30–40 kg, 3 adult tabs qd for 3 days; >40 kg, 4 adult	Mild disease may be treated with oral antimalarial drugs; severe disease (impaired level of consciousness, convulsion, hypotension, or parasitemia >5%) should be treated parenterally. Avoid mefloquine for treatment of malaria, if possible, given higher dose and increased incidence of adverse events. Take clindamycin and doxycycline with plenty of liquids. Do not use primaquine or tafenoquine during

tabs qd for 3 days (BII); OR quinine 30 mg/kg/day (max

2 g/day) PO div tid for 3-7 days AND doxycycline

30 mg/kg/day div tid (max 900 mg tid) for 7 days.

4 mg/kg/day div bid for 7 days OR clindamycin

Parenteral therapy: artesunate (commercially available. but if not in stock or not available within 24 h. contact CDC Malaria Hotline). Children >20 kg: 2.4 mg/kg/dose IV at 0, 12, 24, and 48 h, Children <20 kg: 3 mg/kg/dose IV at 0, 12, 24, and 48 h (from CDC) (BI) AND follow artesunate by one of the following: artemether/lumefantrine, A-P. doxycycline (clindamycin in pregnant women), or, if no other options, mefloquine, all dosed as above. If needed, give interim treatment until artesunate arrives. See CDC website for details: www.cdc.gov/malaria/ resources/pdf/Malaria Treatment Table.pdf (accessed September 30, 2022).

For prevention of relapse with *P vivax, P ovale*: primaguine (check for G6PD deficiency before administering) 0.5-mg base/kg/day PO for 14 days. Take A-P and artemether/lumefantrine with food or milk.

Artesunate is now available commercially, but if not in stock or not available within 24 hours, contact CDC Malaria Hotline at 770/488-7788 or 855/856-4713 toll-free, Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (ET), and the emergency number is 770/488-7100 for after hours, weekends, and holidays (correct as of September 30, 2022).

For relapses of primaguine-resistant P vivax or P ovale, consider re-treating with primaguine 30 mg (base) for 28 days.

- Chloroquine-susceptible P falciparum, chloroquinesusceptible P vivax, P ovale, P malariae

Oral therapy: chloroquine 10 mg/kg base (max 600-mg base) PO, then 5 mg/kg 6, 24, and 48 h after initial dose

Parenteral therapy: artesunate, as above. After return from heavy or prolonged (months) exposure to infected mosquitoes: consider treatment with primaguine (check for G6PD deficiency before administering) 0.5-mg base/kg PO gd with final 2 wk of chloroquine for prevention of relapse with P ovale or P vivax.

Alternative if chloroquine not available: hydroxychloroguine 10-mg base/kg PO immediately. followed by 5-mg base/kg PO at 6, 24, and 48 h. For relapses of primaguine-resistant *P vivax* or *P ovale*. consider re-treating with primaguine 30 mg (base)

for 28 days. Tafenoquine approved July 2018 for prevention of relapse with *P vivax* malaria in those aged ≥ 16 v. 300 mg on the first or second day of chloroguine or hydroxychloroguine for acute malaria. Must test for G6PD deficiency before use; pregnancy testing recommended before use: tabs must be swallowed whole.

Mansonella ozzardi. Mansonella perstans, Mansonella streptocerca See Filariasis earlier in this table.

B. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC PARASITIC PATHOGENS (continued)					
Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments			
Naegleria	See Amebic meningoencephalitis earlier in this table.				
Necator americanus	See Hookworm earlier in this table.				
Onchocerca volvulus	See Filariasis earlier in this table.				
Opisthorchis spp	See Flukes earlier in this table.				
Paragonimus westermani	See Flukes earlier in this table.				
Pinworms (Enterobius vermicularis)	Mebendazole 100 mg once, repeat in 2 wk; OR albendazole 400 mg PO on an empty stomach once; OR pyrantel pamoate 11 mg/kg (max 1 g) PO once (BII); repeat in 2 wk.	Treat entire household for recurrent infection (and if this fails, consider treating close child care/school contacts); re-treatment of contacts after 2 wk may be needed to prevent reinfection. Children as young as 1 y may be treated; some pediatric infectious diseases practitioners may choose to defer treatment of an exposed but uninfected infant aged <1 y. Launder bedding and clothing.			
Plasmodium spp	See Malaria earlier in this table.				
Pneumocystis	See <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> pneumonia in Chapter 5, Table 5B.				
Scabies (Sarcoptes scabiei) ⁷⁵	Permethrin (5%) cream applied to entire body (including scalp in infants), left on for 8–14 h then washed off, repeat in 1 wk (BII); OR ivermectin 200 mcg/kg PO once weekly for 2 doses (BII); OR crotamiton (10%) applied topically overnight on days 1, 2, 3, and 8, washed off in am (BII).	Launder bedding and clothing. Crotamiton treatment failure has been observed. The FDA has not reviewed data on the safety and efficacy of ivermectin in children who weigh <15 kg, although for individual infants, the benefits of treatment are likely to outweigh risks. Reserve lindane for patients >10 y who do not respond to other therapy; concern for toxicity. Itching may continue for weeks after successful treatment; can be managed with antihistamines.			

Schistosomiasis (Schistosoma haematobium, Schistosoma intercalatum, Schistosoma japonicum, Schistosoma mansoni, Schistosoma mekongi) ^{76–78}	Praziquantel 40 (for <i>S haematobium, S mansoni</i> , and <i>S intercalatum</i>) or 60 (for <i>S japonicum</i> and <i>S mekongi</i>) mg/kg/day PO div bid (if 40 mg/day) or tid (if 60 mg/day) for 1 day (AI)	Take praziquantel with food and liquids. Oxamniquine (not available in United States) 20 mg/kg PO div bid for 1 day (Brazil) or 40–60 mg/kg/day for 2–3 days (most of Africa) (BII). Re-treat with the same dose if eggs still present 6–12 wk after initial treatment.	
Strongyloidiasis (Strongyloides stercoralis) ^{79,80} Ivermectin 200 mcg/kg PO qd for 1–2 days (BI); OR albendazole 400 mg PO bid for 7 days (or longer for disseminated disease) (BII)		Albendazole is less effective but may be adequate if longer courses used. For immunocompromised patients (especially with hyperinfection syndrome), veterinary SQ formulations of ivermectin may be lifesaving. The SQ formulation may be used under a single-patient IND protocol request to the FDA. Rectal administration may also be used for those unable to tolerate oral administration. The FDA has not reviewed data on the safety and efficacy of ivermectin in children who weigh <15 kg, although for individual infants, the benefits of treatment are likely to outweigh risks.	
Fapeworms Praziquantel 5–10 mg/kg PO once (for <i>H nana</i> : 25 mg/kg once; may repeat 10 days later) (Bll); OR niclosamide (not available in United States) 50 mg/ kg (max 2 g) PO once, chewed thoroughly (for <i>H nana</i> : weight 11–34 kg: 1 g in a single dose on day 1, then 500 mg/day PO for 6 days; weight >34 kg: 1.5 g in a single dose on day 1, then 1 g/day PO for 6 days; adults: 2 g in a single dose for 7 days)		Nitazoxanide may be effective (published clinical data limited) 500 mg PO bid for 3 days for age >11 y; 200 mg PO bid for 3 days for ages 4–11 y; 100 mg PO bid for 3 days for ages 1–3 y. Albendazole may be an alternative.	

B. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC PARASITIC PATHOGENS (continued)			
Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments	
Toxocariasis ⁸¹ (<i>Toxocara</i> canis [dog roundworm] and <i>Toxocara cati</i> [cat roundworm])	Visceral larval migrans: albendazole 400 mg PO bid for 5 days (BII) Ocular larva migrants: albendazole 400 mg PO bid for 5 days with prednisone (0.5–1 mg/kg/day with slow taper)	Mild disease often resolves without treatment. Corticosteroids may be used for severe symptoms in visceral larval migrans. Mebendazole (100–200 mg/day PO bid for 5 days) is an alternative. May need up to 2 wk of albendazole for ocular <i>Toxocara</i> with sight-threatening inflammation.	
Toxoplasmosis (Toxoplasma gondii) ^{82–84}	See Chapter 2 for congenital infection. Severe acute toxoplasmosis: Pyrimethamine 2 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 2 days (max 100 mg), then 1 mg/kg/day (max 50 mg/day) PO qd AND sulfadiazine 100–200 mg/kg/day PO div qid (max 4–6 g/day for severe disease); with supplemental folinic acid (leucovorin) 10–25 mg with each dose of pyrimethamine (Al) for 2–4 wk. Active toxoplasmic chorioretinitis: Pyrimethamine 2 mg/kg/day PO div bid for 2 days (max 100 mg), then 1 mg/kg/day (max 50 mg/day) PO qd AND sulfadiazine 75 mg/kg/dose 1 dose PO followed in 12 h by 50 mg/kg PO bid (max 4 g/day) AND folinic acid (leucovorin) 10–20 mg/day PO. For treatment in pregnancy, spiramycin 50–100 mg/kg/day PO div qid (available as investigational therapy through the FDA at 301/796-1400) (CII). Treatment is most effective if initiated within 8 wk of seroconversion.	Acute toxoplasmosis in immunocompetent, nonpregnant individuals is typically self-limited and may not require treatment. For acute disease clindamycin, azithromycin, or atovaquone plus pyrimethamine may be effective for patients intolerant of sulfa-containing drugs. Experienced ophthalmologic consultation (retinal specialist with experience treating toxoplasmic chorioretinitis) encouraged for treatment of ocular disease. Treatment of ocular disease with TMP/SMX can be done until first-line therapy is available; 15–20 mg TMP/kg; 75–100 mg/kg SMX qd div q6h–q8h. Treatment continued for 2 wk after resolution of illness (about 3–6 wk); concurrent corticosteroids given for ocular or CNS infection. Prolonged therapy if HIV positive. Compounded pyrimethamine may be obtained from specialized pharmacies; consult your local pharmacist for information on which pharmacies are approved for creating these products. Take pyrimethamine with food to decrease GI adverse effects; sulfadiazine should be taken on an empty stomach with water.	

		Consult expert advice for treatment during pregnancy, management of congenital infection, management of chorioretinitis, and management of toxoplasmosis in immunocompromised individuals.	
Travelers diarrhea ^{37,85–87}	Azithromycin 10 mg/kg qd for 1–3 days (AII); OR rifaximin 200 mg PO tid for 3 days (age ≥12 y) (BIII); OR ciprofloxacin (BII)	See 2017 guidelines from International Society of Trave Medicine: https://academic.oup.com/jtm/article/24/suppl_1/563/3782742 (accessed September 30, 2022). Azithromycin preferable to ciprofloxacin for travelers to Southeast Asia and India given high prevalence of fluoroquinolone-resistant <i>Campylobacter</i> . Do not use rifaximin for <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , and other causes of invasive diarrhea or bloody diarrhea that may be associated with bacteremia. Antibiotic regimens may be combined with loperamide (≥2 y). Rifamycin evaluated by the FDA in adults ≥18 y for treatment of TD caused by noninvasive strains of <i>Escherichia coli</i> (388 mg [2 tabs] bid for 3 days).	
Trichinellosis (<i>Trichinella</i> spiralis) ⁸⁸	Albendazole 400 mg PO bid for 8–14 days (BII) OR mebendazole 200–400 mg PO tid for 3 days, then 400–500 mg PO tid for 10 days	Therapy ineffective for larvae already in muscles Anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids for CNS or cardiac involvement or severe symptoms	
Trichomoniasis (<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>) ⁸⁹	Tinidazole 50 mg/kg (max 2 g) PO for 1 dose (BII) OR metronidazole 500 mg PO bid for 7 days (preferred for women) (BII) OR metronidazole 2 g PO for 1 dose	Treat sex partners simultaneously. Higher rates of treatment failure have been shown to occur with a single dose compared to a 7-day course of treatment with metronidazole. Metronidazole resistance occurs and may be treated with higher-dose metronidazole or tinidazole.	
Trichuris trichiura	See Whipworm later in this table.		

B. PREFERRED THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC PARASITIC PATHOGENS (continued)				
Disease/Organism	Treatment (evidence grade)	Comments		
– Chagas disease ^{26–28} (<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>)	Benznidazole PO: age <2 y, 5.0–7.5 mg/kg/day div bid for 60 days; ages 2–12 y, 5–8 mg/kg/day div bid for 60 days; age ≥12 y, 5–7 mg/kg/day div bid for 60 days (BIII); OR nifurtimox PO age birth—<18 y, 2.5 kg—<40 kg: 10–20 mg/kg/day, PO, in 3 div doses for 60 days; age ≥17 y, 8–10 mg/kg/day div tid for 60 days (BIII)	Therapy recommended for acute and congenital infection, reactivated infection, and chronic infection in children and teens <18 y; consider in those up to 50 y with chronic infection without advanced cardiomyopathy. Benznidazole has been evaluated by the FDA for use in children aged 2–12 y (www.benznidazoletablets. com; accessed September 30, 2022); data have not been submitted for review for children aged <2 y. Some experts use 300 mg/day for 60 days for adults regardless of body weight. Nifurtimox has been reviewed and approved by the FDA for children and teens up to 17 y. Side effects are common but occur less often in younger patients. Both drugs contraindicated in pregnancy.		
- Human African trypanosomiasis ⁹⁰⁻⁹⁵ Acute (hemolymphatic) stage (<i>Trypanosoma brucei</i> <i>gambiense</i> [West African]; <i>Trypanosoma brucei</i> <i>rhodesiense</i> [East African])	Tb gambiense: pentamidine isethionate 4 mg/kg/day IM or IV for 7 days Tb rhodesiense: suramin (from CDC); after test dose of 2 mg/kg (max 100 mg) IV, 10–20 mg/kg (max 1 g) IV on days 1, 3, 7, 14, and 21	Consult with the CDC (www.cdc.gov/parasites/ sleepingsickness/index.html; accessed September 30, 2022), an infectious disease specialist, or a tropical medicine specialist, if unfamiliar with trypanosomiasis. CSF examination required for all patients to assess CNS involvement. Examination of the buffy coat of peripheral blood may be helpful. Tb gambiense may be found in lymph node aspirates. Fexinidazole is an oral second-line alternative drug for Tb gambiense hemolymphatic stage and CNS involvement, a nitroimidazole antimicrobial that is FDA approved for the treatment of both first- and second-stage human African trypanosomiasis due to		

Th aamhiense in natients aged >6 v and weighing at

		least 20 kg. Due to the decreased efficacy observed in patients with severe second-stage human African trypanosomiasis with CSF white blood cell counts >100/µL, fexinidazole should be used only if there are no other available treatment options.	
Late (CNS) stage (Trypanosoma brucei gambiense [West African]; Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense [East African])	Tb gambiense: nifurtimox 15 mg/kg/day PO, div tid, for 10 days and eflornithine (from CDC) 400 mg/kg/day IV in two 2-h infusions (each dose diluted in 250 mL of water for injection) for 7 days (NECT); OR nifurtimox 15 mg/kg/day PO, div tid, for 10 days and eflornithine 400 mg/kg/day IV in four 2-h infusions (each dose diluted in 100 mL of water for injection) for 14 days (NECT) over the long term Tb rhodesiense: melarsoprol, 2.2 mg/kg/day IV (max 180–200 mg/day) for 10 days; corticosteroids often given with melarsoprol to decrease risk of CNS toxicity	CSF examination needed for management (double-centrifuge technique recommended); repeat CSF examinations q6mo for 2 y to detect relapse. Eflornithine: children weighing <10 kg, dilute in 50 mL of water for injection; children weighing 10–25 kg, dilute in 100 mL of water for injection. If water for injection is unavailable, eflornithine can be diluted in 5% dextrose or saline. See above regarding fexinidazole.	
Uncinaria stenocephala	See Cutaneous larva migrans earlier in this table.		
Whipworm (trichuriasis) Trichuris trichiura	Albendazole 400 mg PO qd for 3 days; OR mebendazole 100 mg PO bid for 3 days; OR ivermectin 200 mcg/kg/day PO qd for 3 days (BII)	Treatment can be given for 5–7 days for heavy infestation.	
Wuchereria bancrofti	See Filariasis earlier in this table.		
Yaws	Azithromycin 30 mg/kg, max 2 g once (also treats bejel and pinta)	Alternative regimens include IM benzathine penicillin and second-line agents doxycycline, tetracycline, and erythromycin.	

10. Choosing Among Antiparasitic Agents: Antimalarial Drugs, Nitroimidazoles, Benzimidazoles, and Neglected Tropical Diseases

Antimalarial Drugs

Prevention of Malaria

Seven drugs are available in the United States for prevention of malaria; one (tafenoquine) is licensed only for adults 18 years and older. Another (doxycycline) is not suitable for children younger than 8 years due to the duration it must be taken. Two (primaquine and tafenoquine) require testing for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency before use. Five of these drugs are taken weekly (chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, mefloquine, primaquine, and tafenoquine) and the other 2 are taken daily (atoyaquone/ proguanil and doxycycline). The first consideration in the choice of a drug for prevention of malaria is presence of chloroquine resistance at the destination (from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2020/ preparing-international-travelers/yellow-fever-vaccine-and-malaria-prophylaxisinformation-by-country#5391; accessed September 30, 2022). If present, neither chloroquine nor hydroxychloroquine can be used. The next factor to consider is preference of caregivers about giving a medication to a child daily or weekly, as antimalarial effectiveness depends primarily on taking the medication, not which medication is prescribed. Potential adverse events factor into the decision families make about antimalarials. Many parents will decline mefloquine as soon as the black box warning about the risk of neuropsychiatric adverse reactions is explained, although taking a weekly medication might increase convenience and adherence, and mefloquine may be less costly. In general, families traveling to destinations where there is chloroquine resistance will be choosing between atovaquone/proguanil (daily medication, possibly more costly) and mefloquine (weekly medication, black box warning). Primaquine is used extremely rarely in children; testing for G6PD deficiency is required, and many clinicians are unfamiliar with the use of this drug. Doxycycline needs to be given for a longer period than ideal for children younger than 8 years and is limited by its adverse events profile. Tafenoquine also requires G6PD testing and is limited to those older than 18 years.

For families traveling to areas where there is chloroquine-susceptible malaria, both chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are options. These medications may be difficult to find, and it is prudent to be sure a family can obtain them; if not, any of the other drugs may be considered for use.

Our preference for the best tolerated and effective agent for prophylaxis in areas of chloroquine resistance is atovaquone/proguanil; in areas of chloroquine susceptibility, chloroquine.

Treatment of Malaria

Seven drugs are available in the United States for treatment of acute malaria; choice of drug depends on the severity of illness, location where malaria was acquired, and age of the child. When malaria is acquired in a location without chloroquine resistance,

chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine can be used if the patient is able to take medications orally and it is available. When malaria is acquired in chloroquine-resistant locations, or when it is acquired in chloroquine-susceptible areas but chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine is not available immediately, and when medications can be taken orally, artemether/ lumefantrine is the preferred option, with atovaquone/proguanil (if not used for prophylaxis) also being an option. Mefloquine and quinine (in combination with clindamycin or doxycycline) are available but limited by adverse events profiles. When malaria is severe or the patient is unable to take medications orally, intravenous artesunate should be used. Identification of the species of *Plasmodium* may not be available at the time of choosing the antimalarial drug; in general, treating for *Plasmodium falciparum* is appropriate until more information is available.

The CDC has detailed treatment decision-tree algorithms and tables available at www.cdc. gov/malaria/diagnosis_treatment/treatment.html (accessed September 30, 2022).

Choosing Among Nitroimidazoles (Treatment Option for Some Protozoa, Amoebas)

The choice among nitroimidazoles (metronidazole, tinidazole, triclabendazole, and secnidazole) is based primarily on availability (secnidazole is not available in the United States), cost, convenience, and adverse events. All drugs in this group may produce a disulfiram-like effect when taken with alcohol. Tinidazole has a longer half-life and is better tolerated than metronidazole but may be more costly. Triclabendazole has a narrower spectrum confined to Fasciola hepatica, Fasciola gigantica, and paragonimiasis.

Choosing Among Benzimidazoles (Treatment Option for Some Helminths)

The choice between the benzimidazoles mebendazole and albendazole depends on the specific organism, availability, and cost. Albendazole is a broader-spectrum antihelminth than mebendazole but may be more costly.

Need is great for effective, affordable, and easily available drugs for diseases known as neglected tropical diseases, which include, but are not limited to, the diseases mentioned previously and Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, lymphatic filariasis, and trypanosomiasis. For many of these diseases, options for treatment are limited, include drugs with significant adverse events, or include drugs with limited availability. Additional funding would accelerate research on drug development and implementation of control measures for these diseases such as mass drug distribution, as it has for treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. Until additional focus is put on these neglected tropical diseases, which impose large burdens on the health primarily of those living in low-income countries, the "choosing among" section in this book for antiparasitic drugs will continue to be far shorter that the sections on antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal drugs.

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11. How Antibiotic Dosages Are Determined by Use of Susceptibility Data. Pharmacodynamics, and Treatment Outcomes

Factors Involved in Dosing Recommendations

Our view of assessing the optimal dose of antimicrobials is continually changing. As the published literature and our experience with each drug increase, our recommendations for specific dosages evolve as we compare the efficacy, safety, and cost of each drug in the context of current and previous data from adults and children. Virtually every new antibiotic must first demonstrate some degree of efficacy and safety in adults with antibiotic exposures that occur at specific dosages, which are duplicated in children as closely as possible. We keep track of pediatric pharmacokinetics (PK) in all age-groups, reported toxicities, and unanticipated clinical failures, and on occasion, we may end up modifying our initial recommendations for an antibiotic.

Important considerations in any recommendations we make include (1) the susceptibilities of pathogens to antibiotics, which are constantly changing, are different from region to region, and are often hospital and unit specific; (2) the antibiotic concentrations achieved at the site of infection over a 24-hour dosing interval; (3) the mechanism of how antibiotics kill bacteria; (4) how often the dose we select produces a clinical and microbiological cure; (5) how often we encounter toxicity; (6) how likely the antibiotic exposure will lead to antibiotic resistance in the treated child and in the population in general; and (7) the effect on the child's microbiome.

Susceptibility

Susceptibility data for each bacterial pathogen against a wide range of antibiotics are available from the microbiology laboratory of virtually every hospital. This antibiogram can help guide you in antibiotic selection for empiric therapy while you wait for specific susceptibilities to come back from your cultures. Many hospitals can separate the inpatient culture results from the outpatient results, and many can give you the data by hospital ward (eg, pediatric ward vs neonatal intensive care unit vs adult intensive care unit). Susceptibility data are also available by region and by country from reference laboratories or public health laboratories. The recommendations made in *Nelson's Pediatric* Antimicrobial Therapy reflect overall susceptibility patterns present in the United States. Tables A and B in Chapter 3 provide some overall guidance on susceptibility of grampositive and gram-negative pathogens, respectively. Wide variations may exist for certain pathogens in different regions of the United States and the world. New techniques for rapid molecular diagnosis of a bacterial, mycobacterial, fungal, or viral pathogen based on polymerase chain reaction or next-generation sequencing may quickly give you the name of the pathogen, but with current molecular technology, susceptibility data are not usually available.

Drug Concentrations at the Site of Infection

With every antibiotic, we can measure the concentration of antibiotic present in the serum. We can also directly measure the concentrations in specific tissue sites, such as spinal fluid or middle ear fluid. Because "free," nonprotein-bound antibiotic is required to

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inhibit and kill pathogens, it is also important to calculate the amount of free drug available at the site of infection. While traditional methods of measuring antibiotics focused just on the peak concentrations in serum and how rapidly the drugs were excreted (the half-life), newer models of drug distribution in both plasma and tissue sites (eg. cerebrospinal fluid, urine, peritoneal fluid) and elimination from both plasma and tissue compartments now exist. Antibiotic exposure to pathogens at the site of infection can be described mathematically in many ways: (1) the percentage of time in a 24-hour dosing interval that the antibiotic concentrations are above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC; the antibiotic concentration required for inhibition of growth of an organism) at the site of infection (%T>MIC); (2) the mathematically calculated area below the serum concentration-versus-time curve (area under the curve [AUC]); and (3) the maximal concentration of drug achieved in serum and at the tissue site (Cmax). For each of these 3 values, a ratio of that value to the MIC of the pathogen in question can be calculated and provides more useful information on specific drug activity against a specific pathogen than a simple look at serum concentrations or the AUC. It allows us to compare the exposure of different antibiotics (that achieve quite different concentrations in tissues) to a pathogen (where the MIC for each drug may be different) and to assess the activity of a single antibiotic that may be used for empiric therapy against the many different pathogens (potentially with many different MICs) that may be causing an infection at that tissue site.

Pharmacodynamics

Pharmacodynamic (PD) descriptions provide the clinician with information on how the bacterial pathogens are killed (see Suggested Reading later in this chapter). Beta-lactam antibiotics tend to eradicate bacteria following prolonged exposure of relatively low concentrations of the antibiotic to the pathogen at the site of infection, usually expressed as the percentage of time over a dosing interval that the antibiotic is present at the site of infection in concentrations greater than the MIC (%T>MIC). For example, amoxicillin needs to be present at the site of a pneumococcal infection (such as the middle ear) at a concentration above the MIC for only 40% of a 24-hour dosing interval. Remarkably, neither higher concentrations of amoxicillin nor a more prolonged exposure will substantially increase the cure rate. On the other hand, gentamicin's activity against Escherichia coli is based primarily on the absolute concentration of free antibiotic at the site of infection, in the context of the MIC of the pathogen (Cmax:MIC). The more antibiotic you can deliver to the site of infection, the more rapidly you can sterilize the tissue; we are limited only by the toxicities of gentamicin. For fluoroquinolones such as ciprofloxacin, the antibiotic exposure best linked to clinical and microbiological success is, like that of aminoglycosides, concentration dependent. However, the best mathematical correlate to assess microbiological (and clinical) outcomes for fluoroquinolones is the AUC:MIC, rather than the Cmax:MIC. Each of the 3 PD metrics of antibiotic exposure should be linked to the MIC of the pathogen to best understand how well the antibiotic will eradicate a particular pathogen causing an infection.

Assessment of Clinical and Microbiological Outcomes

In clinical trials of anti-infective agents, most adults and children will hopefully be cured, but the therapy of a few will fail. For those few, we may note unanticipated treatment failure, due to inadequate drug exposure (eg. more rapid drug elimination in a particular patient; the inability of a particular antibiotic to penetrate to the site of infection) or due to a pathogen with a particularly high MIC. By analyzing the successes and the failures based on the appropriate exposure parameters outlined previously (%T>MIC, AUC:MIC, or Cmax:MIC), we can often observe a particular value of exposure, above which we observe a higher rate of cure and below which the cure rate drops quickly. Knowing this target value in adults (the "antibiotic exposure break point") allows us to calculate the dosage that will create treatment success in most children. We do not evaluate antibiotics in children with study designs that have failure rates sufficient to calculate a pediatric exposure break point, of course. It is the adult exposure value that leads to success that we all (including the US Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and pharmaceutical companies) subsequently share with you, a pediatric health care practitioner, as one likely to cure your patient. FDA-approved break points that are reported by microbiology laboratories (S, I, and R) are now determined by outcomes linked to drug PK and exposure, the MIC, and the PD parameter for that agent. Recommendations to the FDA for break points for the United States often come from "break point organizations," such as the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (https://clsi.org) or the US Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (www.uscast.org).

Physiologic-Based Pharmacokinetic Modeling

Just to keep everyone informed about where the field of antibiotic exposure modeling is going, the next advance is physiologic-based PK (PBPK) modeling. Currently, we use PK/ PD modeling, described by Monte Carlo simulation software using the overall observed distribution of PK values in a specific pediatric population (eg, neonates, infants, children, adolescents), the range of MICs observed in pathogens of interest, and the PD description for inhibition of bacteria growth (discussed previously) for each antibiotic/pathogen pair. We can then find the likelihood that a certain dose will treat a certain pathogen at a certain tissue site, by using a specific dose. What PBPK adds to the equation is additional information about the physicochemical properties of drugs (some diffuse well into adipose tissues; others, not so much), about ongoing organ function development through childhood, and about blood flow/organ perfusion throughout the entire body, to allow better prediction of how drugs move through tissue compartments of the body during absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion for each age-group in pediatrics. In that sense, PK/PD modeling can describe by observation, but PBPK modeling can better predict how an antibiotic will "behave" in a child for both efficacy and toxicity. The FDA is encouraging PBPK modeling, and the more data we have on drug behavior, the better the PBPK models become for children. The Verscheijden review listed in Suggested Reading gives a nice overview of PBPK modeling in pediatrics.

Suggested Reading

Le J, et al. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 2018;58(suppl 10):S108–S122 PMID: 30248202 Onufrak NJ, et al. *Clin Ther*. 2016;38(9):1930–1947 PMID: 27449411 Trang M, et al. *Curr Opin Pharmacol*. 2017;36:107–113 PMID: 29128853 Verscheijden LFM, et al. *Pharmacol Ther*. 2020;211:107541 PMID: 32246949

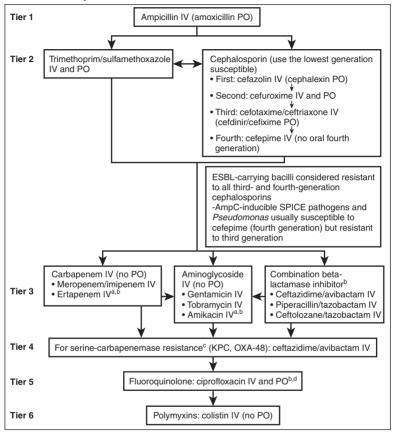
12. Approach to Antibiotic Therapy for Drug-Resistant Gram-negative Bacilli and Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

Multidrug-Resistant Gram-negative Bacilli

Increasing antibiotic resistance in gram-negative bacilli, primarily the enteric bacilli (eg, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Serratia, Citrobacter), Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Acinetobacter species, has caused profound difficulties in treatment of patients around the world; some of the pathogens now resist all available agents. Stenotrophomonas, with profound intrinsic antibiotic resistance, is increasing as a cause of nosocomial infections and of infection in those with chronic recurrent infection (eg. cystic fibrosis). At this time, only a limited number of pediatric tertiary care centers in North America have reported outbreaks of multidrug-resistant (MDR) pathogens, but sustained transmission of completely resistant organisms is quite uncommon in pediatric health care institutions, likely due to the critical infection control strategies in place to identify and prevent the spread of these pathogens. Antibiotic resistance in pathogens, particularly the non-fermenting gram-negative rods, is not new but, rather, the result of more than 100 million years of exposure to antibiotics elaborated by other organisms in their environment. Inducible enzymes to cleave antibiotics and modify binding sites, efflux pumps, and gram-negative cell wall alterations to prevent antibiotic penetration may all be present. Some mechanisms of resistance, if not intrinsic, can be acquired from other bacilli. By using antibiotics, we "awaken" resistance; therefore, using antibiotics only when appropriate limits the selection, or induction, of resistance for pathogens in the treated child and for all children (see Chapter 17). Community prevalence, as well as health care institution prevalence, of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-containing enteric bacilli that are resistant to ceftriaxone is increasing. Carbapenemase-containing pathogens that are meropenem resistant are now beginning to spread in neonates, infants, and children. Two major classes of carbapenemases exist: serine beta-lactamases (SBLs), named for a serine at the active site, and metallo-beta-lactamases (MBLs), having a zinc at the active site. Antibiotic resistance patterns differ for the 2 classes. The most prominent carbapenemases in the United States are SBLs, most often Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase (KPC)-related enzymes and increasingly OXA-48-like enzymes. Globally, MBLs are often the most prominent classes in circulation (eg, VIM [Verona integronencoded], NDM [New Delhi], IMP [imipenemase]), with ongoing spread within the United States. Some SBLs and MBLs are now being addressed by new, active antibiotics and new beta-lactamase inhibitors (BLIs). However, as we have found in the past, as soon as new drugs are available, resistance develops quickly. We cannot win, but we can usually stay in the fight against these pathogens.

In **Figure 12-1**, we assume that the clinician has the antibiotic susceptibility report in hand (or at least a local antibiogram). Each tier provides increasingly broader-spectrum activity, from the narrowest of the gram-negative agents to the broadest (and most toxic), colistin. Tier 1 is ampicillin, safe and widely available but not active against *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter*, or *Pseudomonas* and only active against about half of *E coli* in the community setting. Tier 2 contains antibiotics that not only have a broader spectrum

Figure 12-1. Enteric Bacilli: Bacilli and *Pseudomonas* With Known Susceptibilities (See Text for Interpretation)



Abreviations: ESBL, extended-spectrum beta-lactamase; IM, intramuscular; IV, intravenous; Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase; PO, orally; SPICE, Serratia, indole-positive Proteus, Citrobacter, Enterobacter.

- ^a Ertapenem is the only carbapenem *not* active against *Pseudomonas*. Ertapenem and amikacin can be given once daily as outpatient IV/IM therapy for infections where these drugs achieve therapeutic concentrations (eg, urinary tract). Some use once-daily gentamicin or tobramycin.
- b For mild to moderate ESBL infections caused by organisms susceptible only to IV/IM beta-lactam or aminoglycoside therapy but also susceptible to fluoroquinolones, oral fluoroquinolone therapy is preferred over IV/IM therapy if the infection is amenable to treatment by oral therapy.
- C Not active against metallo-carbapenemases; for metallo-carbapenemases, use fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, or aztreonam PLUS ceftazidime/avibactam.
- d If you have susceptibility to only a few remaining agents, consider combination therapy to prevent the emergence of resistance to your last-resort antibiotics (no prospective, controlled data in these situations).

but also have a very safe and effective profile (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole [TMP/ SMX] and cephalosporins) with decades of experience. In general, use an antibiotic from tier 2 before turning to broader-spectrum agents. The first-through-fifth generation cephalosporins are not reliably active against ESBL-containing pathogens. Please also be aware that many enteric bacilli (the "SPICE" bacteria, Serratia, indole-positive Proteus, Citrobacter, and Enterobacter, and a few others) have inducible, chromosomal beta-lactam resistance (ampC beta-lactamases, which are active against all cephalosporins except cefepime, a fourth-generation cephalosporin). Resistance usually develops only after exposure of the pathogen to the antibiotic. Tier 3 is made up of very broad-spectrum antibiotics (ie, carbapenems, ceftazidime/avibactam, piperacillin/tazobactam, ceftolozane/tazobactam). Ceftolozane is more active against P aeruginosa than ceftazidime or piperacillin, and it is paired with tazobactam, allowing for additional activity again ESBLproducing enteric bacilli. Aminoglycosides remain active against many MDR pathogens with resistance to beta-lactams but demonstrate significantly more toxicity than beta-lactam agents, although we have used them safely for decades. Tier 4 is represented by a new broad-spectrum BLI, avibactam, in combination with ceftazidime (ceftazidime/ avibactam is US Food and Drug Administration [FDA] approved for children), that demonstrates activity against ESBL-producing enteric bacilli and against the KPC and OXA-48 serine carbapenemases but lacks stability against the metallo-carbapenemases present most commonly in enteric bacilli (including E coli) worldwide. With substantial data on safety with widespread use, ceftazidime/avibactam is preferred over fluoroquinolones. Tier 5 is fluoroquinolones, to be used only when lower-tier antibiotics cannot be used due to potential cartilage/tendon toxicities (not yet reported in children for fluoroquinolones available in the United States). Tier 6 is colistin, one of the broadest-spectrum agents available. Colistin was FDA approved in 1962 with significant toxicity and limited clinical experience in children.

Some of the newer-generation tetracyclines have activity against MBL-producing enteric bacilli (ie, tigecycline, eravacycline, omadacycline) but are not discussed in this book.

Many additional drugs for MDR gram-negative organisms are currently moving from animal models into adult clinical trials. Stay tuned.

Investigational Agents Recently Approved for Adults and Being Studied in Children

Cefiderocol. Represents a new class of beta-lactam antibiotics as a siderophore cephalosporin (eg, binding to iron) that defies the "generation" categories with respect to spectrum of activity. The cefiderocol-iron complex allows for pathogens to actively transport the complex across the cell wall into the periplasmic space, thus allowing the antibiotic access to the transpeptidases not as easily achievable with standard beta-lactams. It is stable to ESBLs, SBLs and MBLs, ampC, and OXA-48 enzymes, with activity that includes *Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter*, and *Stenotrophomonas*. Pediatric treatment studies are well underway.

Imipenem and relebactam. Imipenem was the first carbapenem approved for use in children and is now paired with relebactam, a BLI with similar structure to that of avibactam, providing stability for the combination against KPC-containing enteric bacilli, thus extending the aerobic/anaerobic broad spectrum of carbapenems that already includes ESBLs and ampC beta-lactamases. Pediatric treatment studies are well underway.

Meropenem and vaborbactam. Meropenem, a familiar broad-spectrum aerobic/ anaerobic coverage carbapenem that is already stable to ESBLs and ampC beta-lactamases, is now paired with vaborbactam, allowing for activity against the KPC serine carbapenemases but not metallo-carbapenemases. Pediatric pharmacokinetic studies are underway.

Plazomicin. Represents a new aminoglycoside antibiotic that is active against many of the gentamicin-, tobramycin-, and amikacin-resistant enteric bacilli and *Pseudomonas*. Not currently available in the United States.

Investigational Agents Under Study in Adults We Are Following

Aztreonam and avibactam. This antibiotic is being developed to address metallocarbapenemases, for which avibactam and relebactam do not provide protection. Aztreonam, a monobactam antibiotic first approved in 1986, is stable to many MBLs but susceptible to cleavage from virtually all the other beta-lactamases; *however*, when it is paired with avibactam, the combination becomes stable to a vast array of beta-lactamases.

Cefepime and taniborbactam. Represents another older antibiotic, cefepime, that is now paired with taniborbactam, a broad-spectrum, borate-based BLI, stable against ESBLs, SBLs and MBLs, and ampC beta-lactamases.

Fosfomycin. Is available in the United States in oral form for uncomplicated cystitis, with new studies in the United States having been conducted in adults with an intravenous (IV) formulation. Interferes with the synthesis of cell walls (inhibits linking of glycan and peptide to form peptidoglycan cross-linked structures that form cell walls) and demonstrates stability to MBLs carried by *E coli*. Pharmacokinetic studies are underway in children.

Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

Community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA) is a community pathogen for children (that can also spread from child to child in hospitals) that first developed in the United States in the mid-1990s and currently represents 10% to 30% of all community isolates in various regions of the United States (check your hospital microbiology laboratory for your local rate); it is present in many areas of the world, with some strain variation documented. Notably, we have begun to see a decrease in invasive MRSA infections in multiple locations in the United States.²⁻³ CA-MRSA resists betalactam antibiotics, with the notable exception of ceftaroline, a fifth-generation cephalosporin antibiotic that was FDA approved for pediatrics in June 2016 (see Chapter 1).

There are an undetermined number of pathogenicity factors that make CA-MRSA strains more aggressive than methicillin-susceptible S aureus (MSSA) strains. CA-MRSA seems to cause greater tissue necrosis, an increased host inflammatory response, an increased rate of complications, and an increased rate of recurrent infections, compared with MSSA. Response of MRSA to therapy with non-beta-lactam antibiotics (eg, vancomycin) seems to be inferior, compared with response of MSSA to oxacillin/nafcillin or cefazolin, but it is unknown whether poorer outcomes are due to a hardier, better-adapted, more aggressive strain of S aureus or alternative agents are just not as effective against MRSA as beta-lactam agents are against MSSA. In children, studies using ceftaroline to treat skin infections (many caused by MRSA) were conducted by way of a non-inferiority clinical trial design, comparing ceftaroline with vancomycin, with the finding that ceftaroline was equivalent to vancomycin. Guidelines for management of MRSA infections (2011) and management of skin and soft tissue infections (2014) have been published by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)4 and are available at www.idsociety.org, as well as in Red Book: 2021–2024 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Antimicrobials for CA-MRSA

Vancomycin (IV) has been the mainstay of parenteral therapy for MRSA infections for the past 4 decades and continues to have activity against more than 98% of strains isolated from children. New guidelines on the use of vancomycin for MRSA infections have recently been published through a collaboration among the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, IDSA, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, and Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists.⁵ A few cases of intermediate resistance and "heteroresistance" (transient moderately increased resistance likely to be caused by thickened staphylococcal cell walls) have been reported, most commonly in adults who are receiving long-term therapy or who have received multiple exposures to vancomycin. Unfortunately, the response to therapy using standard vancomycin dosing of 40 mg/kg/day in the treatment of many CA-MRSA strains has not been as predictably successful as in the past with MSSA. For vancomycin efficacy, the ratio of the area under the curve (the mathematically calculated area below the serum concentration-versus-time curve) to minimum inhibitory concentration (AUC:MIC) seems to be the best exposure metric to predict a successful outcome. Better outcomes are likely to be achieved with an AUC:MIC of about 400 or greater, rather than with a serum trough value in the range of 15 to 20 mcg/mL, which is associated with greater renal toxicity (see Chapter 11 for more on the AUC:MIC). This ratio of 400:1 is achievable for CA-MRSA strains with in vitro MIC values of 1 mcg/mL or less but difficult to achieve for strains with values of 2 mcg/mL or greater.6 Recent data suggest that vancomycin MICs may actually be decreasing in children for MRSA causing bloodstream infections as they increase for MSSA.7 Strains with MIC values of 4 mcg/mL or greater should be considered resistant to vancomycin. When using higher "meningitis" treatment dosages of 60 mg/kg/day (or higher) to achieve a 400:1 vancomycin exposure, one needs to follow renal function carefully for the development of toxicity and the possible subsequent need to switch classes of antibiotics.

Dalbavancin is a glycopeptide, structurally very similar to vancomycin but with enhanced in vitro activity against MRSA and a much longer serum half-life, allowing once-weekly dosing, or even just a single dose, to treat skin infections. Approved for pediatrics from birth to age 18 years in 2021, it is an important option for outpatient parenteral therapy once-weekly IV injection, when outpatient *IV* therapy and *oral* therapy are not feasible.

Clindamycin (oral [PO] or IV) is active against about 70% to 90% of strains of either MRSA or MSSA, with great geographic variability (again, check with your hospital laboratory).8 The dosage for moderate to severe infections is 30 to 40 mg/kg/day, in 3 divided doses, with the same milligram per kilogram dose PO or IV. Clindamycin is not as bactericidal as vancomycin but achieves higher concentrations in abscesses (because of high intracellular concentrations in neutrophils). Some CA-MRSA strains are susceptible to clindamycin on testing but have inducible clindamycin resistance (methylasemediated) that is usually assessed by the "D-test" and can now be assessed by multi-well microtiter plates. Within each population of CA-MRSA organisms, a rare organism (between 1 in 109 and 1011 organisms) will have a mutation that allows for *constant*, rather than induced, resistance.9 Although still somewhat controversial, clindamycin should be effective therapy for infections that have a relatively low organism load (eg, cellulitis, small or drained abscesses) and are unlikely to contain a significant population of these constitutive methylase-producing mutants that are truly resistant; in fact, staphylococcal methylase is poorly induced by clindamycin. Infections with a high organism load (empyema) may have a greater risk of failure, as a large population is more likely to have a significant number of truly resistant organisms and clindamycin should not be used as the preferred agent for these infections. Many laboratories no longer report D-test results but simply call the organisms "resistant," prompting the use of alternative therapy that may not be needed.

Clindamycin is used to treat most CA-MRSA infections that are not life-threatening, and if the child responds, therapy can be switched from IV to PO (although the PO solution is not very well tolerated). *Clostridium difficile* enterocolitis is a concern; however, despite a great increase in the use of clindamycin in children during the past decade, recent published data do not document a clinically significant increase in the rate of this complication in children.

Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (PO, IV), Bactrim/Septra, is active against CA-MRSA in vitro. Prospective, comparative data on treatment of skin or skin structure infections in adults and children document efficacy equivalent to clindamycin. Given our current lack of prospective, comparative information in MRSA bacteremia, pneumonia, and osteomyelitis (in contrast to skin infections), TMP/SMX should not be used routinely to treat these more serious infections at this time.

Linezolid (PO, IV), active against virtually 100% of CA-MRSA strains, is another reasonable alternative but is considered bacteriostatic and has relatively frequent hematologic toxicity in adults (ie, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia) and some infrequent neurologic

toxicity (ie, peripheral neuropathy, optic neuritis), particularly when used for courses of 2 weeks or longer. A complete blood cell count should be checked every week or two in children receiving prolonged linezolid therapy. The cost of generic linezolid is still substantially more than of clindamycin or vancomycin.

Daptomycin (IV) is FDA approved for adults with skin infections and bacteremia/ endocarditis and was approved for use in children with skin infections in April 2017. It is a unique class of antibiotic, a lipopeptide, and is highly bactericidal. Daptomycin became generic in 2017 and should be considered for treatment of skin infection and bacteremia when other, better-studied antibiotics fail. Daptomycin should not be used to **treat pneumonia**, as it is inactivated by pulmonary surfactant. Pediatric studies for skin infections and bacteremia have been completed and published. 11,12 Studies in pediatric osteomyelitis¹³ are now published, showing that daptomycin was not statistically different than comparator standard-of-care antibiotics for all S aureus (few subjects with MRSA were enrolled in the global study). However, based on a complex, early time point evaluation at day 5, daptomycin was not found to be statistically non-inferior to comparators. We believe that daptomycin should still be considered an option for treatment of MRSA osteomyelitis, but it may not provide better outcomes for MSSA osteomyelitis. Some newborn animal neurologic toxicity data suggest additional caution for the use of daptomycin in infants younger than 1 year, prompting a warning in the package label. Routine pediatric clinical trial investigations in young infants were not pursued due to these concerns.

Tigecycline and fluoroquinolones, both of which may show in vitro activity, are not generally recommended for children if other agents are available and are tolerated, due to potential toxicity issues and rapid emergence of resistance with fluoroquinolones (except for delafloxacin, which is investigated and approved only in adults at this time).

Ceftaroline, a fifth-generation cephalosporin antibiotic, the first FDA-approved betalactam antibiotic to be active against MRSA, was approved for children in June 2016. The gram-negative coverage is like that of ceftriaxone, with no activity against *Pseudomonas*. Published data are available for pediatric pharmacokinetics, as well as for prospective, randomized comparative treatment trials of skin and skin structure infections, 14 community-acquired pneumonia, 15,16 and neonatal sepsis. 17 The efficacy and toxicity profile for adults is what one would expect from most cephalosporins. Based on these published data, ceftaroline should be effective and safer than vancomycin for treatment of MRSA infections for all age-groups, including neonates. Just as beta-lactams are preferred over vancomycin for MSSA infections, ceftaroline is now considered by the editors to be the preferred treatment of MRSA infections over vancomycin, except for central nervous system infections/endocarditis only due to lack of clinical data for these infections. Neither renal function nor drug levels need to be followed with ceftaroline therapy. Since pediatric approval in mid-2016, there have been no serious postmarketing adverse experiences in children reported; recommendations may change should unexpected clinical data on lack of efficacy or unexpected toxicity beyond what may be expected with beta-lactams be presented.

Combination therapy for serious infections, with vancomycin and rifampin (for deep abscesses) or vancomycin and gentamicin (for bacteremia), is often used, but no prospective, controlled human clinical data exist on improved efficacy over single antibiotic therapy. Some experts use vancomycin and clindamycin in combination, particularly for children with a toxic-shock clinical manifestation. Ceftaroline has also been used in combination therapy with other agents, including daptomycin in adults, but no prospective, controlled clinical data exist to assess benefits.

Investigational Gram-positive Agents Recently Approved for Adults and Being Studied in Children

Oritavancin. Represents an IV glycopeptide, structurally very similar to vancomycin but with enhanced in vitro activity against MRSA and a much longer serum half-life, allowing once-weekly dosing. A very similar antibiotic, dalbavancin, was just approved for children in 2021.

Telavancin. A glycolipopeptide with mechanisms of activity that include cell wall inhibition and cell membrane depolarization, telavancin is administered once daily.

Tedizolid. A second-generation oxazolidinone like linezolid, tedizolid is more potent in vitro against MRSA than linezolid, with somewhat decreased toxicity to bone marrow in adult clinical studies.

Recommendations for Empiric Therapy for Suspected MRSA Infections

Life-threatening and serious infections. If any CA-MRSA is present in your community, empiric therapy for presumed staphylococcal infections that are life-threatening or infecabscesses) or vancomycin and gentamicin (for bacteremia), is often used, but no prospec-

empiric therapy for presumed staphylococcal infections that are life-threatening or infections for which any risk of failure is unacceptable should follow the recommendations for CA-MRSA and include ceftaroline OR high-dose vancomycin, clindamycin, or linezolid, in addition to nafcillin or oxacillin (beta-lactam antibiotics are considered better than vancomycin or clindamycin for MSSA).

Moderate infections. If you live in a location with greater than 10% methicillin resistance, consider using the CA-MRSA recommendations for hospitalized children with presumed staphylococcal infections of any severity, and start empiric therapy with clindamycin (usually active against >80% of CA-MRSA), ceftaroline, vancomycin, or linezolid IV.

In skin and skin structure abscess treatment, antibiotics may be unnecessary following incision and drainage, which may, in fact, be curative.

Mild infections. For nonserious, presumed staphylococcal infections in regions with significant CA-MRSA, topical empiric therapy with mupirocin (Bactroban) or retapamulin (Altabax) ointment, or PO therapy with TMP/SMX or clindamycin, is preferred. For older children, doxycycline and minocycline are also options based on data in adults.

Prevention of Recurrent Infections

For children with problematic, recurrent infections, no well-studied, prospectively collected data provide a solution. Bleach baths (1/2 cup of bleach in a full bathtub)18 seemed to be able to transiently decrease the number of colonizing organisms but were not shown to decrease the number of infections in a prospective, controlled study in children with eczema. Similarly, a regimen to decolonize with twice-weekly bleach baths in an attempt to prevent recurrent infection did not lead to a statistically significant decrease. ^{19,20} Bathing with chlorhexidine (Hibiclens, a preoperative antibacterial skin disinfectant) daily or 2 to 3 times each week should provide topical anti-MRSA activity for several hours following a bath. Treating the entire family with decolonization regimens will additionally decrease risk for recurrence for the index child. ²¹ Nasal mupirocin ointment (Bactroban) designed to eradicate colonization may also be used. All these measures have advantages and disadvantages and need to be used together with environmental measures (eg, washing towels frequently, using hand sanitizers, not sharing items of clothing). Helpful advice can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov/mrsa; accessed September 30, 2022).

Vaccines are being investigated but are not likely to be available for several years.

13. Antibiotic Therapy for Children With Obesity

When prescribing an antimicrobial for a child with obesity or overweight, selecting a dose based on milligrams per kilograms of total body weight (TBW) may overexpose the child if the drug does not freely distribute into fat tissue. Conversely, underexposure can occur when a dosage is reduced for obesity for drugs without distribution limitations.

Table 13-1 lists major antimicrobial classes and our suggestions on how to calculate an appropriate dose. The evidence to support these recommendations is Level II to III (pharmacokinetic studies in children, extrapolations from adult studies, and expert opinion). Whenever a dose is used that is greater than one prospectively investigated for efficacy and safety, the clinician must weigh the benefits with potential risks. Data are not available on all agents.

TABLE 13-1. DOSING	RECOMME	NDATIONS	
Drug Class	By EBW ^a	By Adjusted BW	By TBW ^b
Antibacterials			
Beta-lactams			
Piperacillin/tazobactam			X
Cephalosporins			X
Meropenem			Χ
Ertapenem	Χ		
Clindamycin			X (no max)
Vancomycin		1,500-2,000 mg/m ² /day	20 mg/kg LD, then 60 mg/ kg/day div q6–8h
Aminoglycosides		0.7 × TBW	
Fluoroquinolones		EBW + 0.45 (TBW-EBW)	
Miscellaneous			
TMP/SMX			X
Metronidazole			Х
Linezolid			X
Daptomycin			X (See max doses in comments below.)

Drug Class	By EBW ^a	By Adjusted BW	By TBW ^b
Antifungals			
Amphotericin B			X (max 150 mg for AmB-D, max 500 mg for L-AmB)
Fluconazole			X (max 1,200 mg/day)
Flucytosine	Χ		
Anidulafungin			X (max 250 mg LD, max 125 mg/day)
Caspofungin			X (max 150 mg/day)
Micafungin			X (max 300 mg/day)
Voriconazole	Χ		
Antivirals (Non-HIV)			
Nucleoside analogues (acyclovir, ganciclovir)	Х		
Oseltamivir	Х		
Antimycobacterials			
Isoniazid	Х		
Rifampin			Х
Pyrazinamide			Х
Ethambutol			X

Abbreviations: AmB-D, amphotericin B deoxycholate; BMI, body mass index; BW, body weight; div, divided; EBW, expected body weight; L-AmB, liposomal amphotericin B; LD, loading dose; max, maximum; q, every; TBW, total body weight; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.

^a EBW (kg) = BMI 50th percentile for age \times actual height (in meters)²; from Le Grange D, et al. *Pediatrics*. 2012;129(2):e438–e446 PMID: 22218841.

^b Dose up to adult max (see Chapter 18) if not otherwise specified.

For **gentamicin**, using the child's fat-free mass, an approximate 30% reduction in dosing weight, has been recommended. When you are performing this empiric dosing strategy with aminoglycosides in children with obesity, we recommend closely following serum concentrations

Vancomycin is traditionally dosed based on TBW in adults with obesity due to increases in kidney size and glomerular filtration rate. In children with obesity, weight-adjusted distribution volume and clearance are slightly lower than in their counterparts without obesity. An empiric maximum dose of 60 mg/kg/day based on TBW, or dosing using body surface area, may be more appropriate. We recommend closely following serum concentrations.

In the setting of **cefazolin** for surgical prophylaxis (see Chapter 15), adult studies of patients with obesity have generally shown that distribution to the subcutaneous fat tissue target can be subtherapeutic when standard doses are used. Higher single doses are recommended in adults with obesity (eg, 2 g instead of the standard 1 g) with re-dosing at 4-hour intervals for longer cases. In children with obesity, we recommend dosing cephalosporins for surgical prophylaxis based on TBW up to the adult maximum.

In critically ill adults with obesity treated with **carbapenems** or **piperacillin/tazobactam**, extended infusion times (over 2–3 hours, instead of 30 minutes) have been shown to increase the likelihood of achieving therapeutic bloodstream antibiotic exposures, particularly against bacteria with higher minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs). With availability of rapid beta-lactam antibiotic assays by commercial laboratories with high-performance liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry technology, clinicians now have the opportunity to assess adequacy of serum concentrations in critically ill children with obesity.

Daptomycin dosing can be performed by using TBW, but the maximum dose should be 500 mg for skin infections and 750 mg for bloodstream infections. Bolus administration over 2 minutes can improve the likelihood of achieving target concentrations when the maximum dose is less than the calculated dose in an adolescent with obesity.

Adult maximum doses of **linezolid** may be inadequate to achieve target plasma concentrations to treat susceptible methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections with high MICs. However, higher doses should be attempted only with the aid of concentration monitoring to avoid hematologic toxicity.

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13

Sequential Parenteral-Oral Antibiotic Therapy (Oral Step-down Therapy) for Serious Infections

The concept of oral step-down or "oral switch" therapy is not new; evidence-based recommendations from Nelson and colleagues appeared over 40 years ago in the Journal of Pediatrics. 1,2 Bone and joint infections, 3-5 complicated bacterial pneumonia with empyema,6 deep-tissue abscesses, and appendicitis,78 as well as cellulitis or pyelonephritis,9 may require initial parenteral therapy to control the growth and spread of pathogens and minimize injury to tissues. For abscesses in soft tissues, joints, bones, and empyema, most organisms are removed by surgical drainage, and presumably, many are killed by the initial parenteral therapy. When the signs and symptoms of infection begin to resolve, often within 2 to 4 days, continuing intravenous (IV) therapy may not be required, as a normal host neutrophil response begins to assist in clearing the infection when the pathogen load drops below a certain critical density, as has been demonstrated in an animal model.¹⁰ In addition to following the clinical response before oral switch, following objective laboratory markers, such as C-reactive protein (CRP) or procalcitonin (PCT), during the hospitalization may also help the clinician better assess the response to antibacterial therapy, particularly in the infant or child who is difficult to examine. 11,12 The benefits of oral step-down therapy over prolonged parenteral therapy are substantial and welldocumented in treatment of acute osteomyelitis, including a decrease in both emergency department visits and rehospitalizations, with equivalent treatment success outcomes.¹³ For many children who have successful drainage of their intra-abdominal abscesses and recover quickly, either short-course oral therapy (7 days' total) or no additional antibiotic treatment following clinical and laboratory recovery may be appropriate.¹⁴ However, defining those children with intra-abdominal abscesses who may benefit from oral stepdown therapy (versus no additional antibiotic therapy) is difficult, as the extent of a deep infection, the adequacy of source control (surgical drainage and the variety of techniques involved), and the susceptibility of pathogen(s) involved are not always known.¹⁵

For the beta-lactam class of antibiotics, absorption of orally administered antibiotics in *standard* dosages originally studied by companies during clinical trials provides peak serum concentrations that are routinely only 5% to 20% of those achieved with IV or intramuscular administration. However, *high-dose* oral beta-lactam therapy provides the tissue antibiotic exposure thought to be required to eradicate the remaining pathogens at the infection site as the tissue perfusion improves. For most oral antibiotics, prospectively collected data on safety and efficacy at higher dosages have not been systematically collected and presented to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval; most of the data to support high-dose oral beta-lactam often come from retrospectively reviewed data or small prospective studies. Without FDA review and formal approval, these dosages are, by definition, off-label. High-dose oral beta-lactam antibiotic therapy for osteoarticular infections has been associated with treatment success since 1978.³ For beta-lactams, begin with a dosage 2 to 3 times the normal dosage (eg, 75–100 mg/kg/day of amoxicillin or 100 mg/kg/day of cephalexin). It is reassuring that high-quality retrospective cohort data have recently confirmed similar outcomes achieved in those treated

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with oral step-down therapy compared with those treated with IV.¹³ High-dose prolonged oral beta-lactam therapy may be associated with reversible neutropenia; checking for hematologic toxicity every few weeks during therapy is suggested.¹⁶ Retrospective reviews of oral step-down therapy in adults suggest that the use of this standard of pediatric care may be increasing in the treatment of certain infections in adults.¹⁷

Clindamycin and many antibiotics of the fluoroquinolone class (eg, ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin) and oxazolidinone class (eg, linezolid, tedizolid) have excellent absorption of their oral formulations and provide virtually the same tissue antibiotic exposure at a particular milligram per kilogram dose, compared with that dose given intravenously; therefore, higher dosages are not needed for oral therapy. Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole and metronidazole are also very well absorbed.

One must also assume that the parent and child are adherent to the administration of each antibiotic dose, that the oral antibiotic will be absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract into the systemic circulation (no vomiting or diarrhea), and that the parents will seek medical care if the clinical course does not continue to improve for their child.

Monitor the child clinically for a continued response on oral therapy; follow CRP or PCT after the switch to oral therapy, and if there are concerns about continued response, make sure the antibiotic and dosage you selected are appropriate and the family is adherent. In one of the first published series of oral step-down therapy for osteoarticular infection by Syrogiannopoulos and Nelson, failures caused by presumed nonadherence were reported. 18

15. Antimicrobial Prophylaxis/Prevention of Symptomatic Infection

This chapter summarizes recommendations for prophylaxis of infections, defined as provision of therapy before the onset of clinical signs or symptoms of infection. Prophylaxis can be considered in several clinical scenarios.

A. Postexposure Antimicrobial Prophylaxis to Prevent Symptomatic Infection

Given for a relatively short, specified period (days) after exposure to specific pathogens/organisms, where the risks of acquiring the infection are felt to justify antimicrobial treatment to eradicate a colonizing pathogen or prevent symptomatic infection when the child (healthy or with increased susceptibility to infection) is likely to have been inoculated/exposed (eg, an asymptomatic child closely exposed to meningococcus; a neonate born to a mother with active genital herpes simplex virus [HSV]) but does not yet have signs or symptoms of infection.

B. Long-term Antimicrobial Prophylaxis to Prevent Symptomatic New Infection

Given to a particular, defined population of children with relatively high risk of acquiring a severe infection from a single exposure or multiple exposures (eg, a child post-splenectomy; a child with documented rheumatic heart disease to prevent subsequent streptococcal infection), with prophylaxis provided during the period of risk, potentially for months or years.

C. Prophylaxis of Symptomatic Disease in Children Who Have Asymptomatic Infection/Latent Infection

Where a child has a documented infection but is asymptomatic. Targeted antimicrobials are given to prevent the development of symptomatic disease (eg, latent tuberculosis [TB] infection or therapy of a stem cell transplant patient with documented cytomegalovirus viremia but no symptoms of infection or rejection; to prevent reactivation of HSV). Treatment period is usually defined, particularly when the latent infection can be cured (TB, requiring 6 months of therapy), but other circumstances, such as prevention of reactivation of latent HSV, may require months or years of prophylaxis.

D. Surgical/Procedure Prophylaxis

A child receives a surgical/invasive catheter procedure, planned or unplanned, in which the risk for infection postoperatively or post-procedure may justify prophylaxis to prevent an infection from occurring (eg, prophylaxis to prevent infection following spinal rod placement). **Treatment is usually short-term (hours)**, beginning just before the procedure and ending at the conclusion of the procedure, or within 24 hours.

E. Travel-Related Exposure Prophylaxis

Not discussed in this chapter; please refer to information on specific disease entities (eg, travelers diarrhea, chapters 1 and 9) or specific pathogens (eg, malaria, Chapter 9).

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Constantly updated, current information for travelers about prophylaxis (often starting just before travel and continuing until return) and current worldwide infection risks can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc. gov/travel (accessed September 30, 2022).

NOTE

Abbreviations: AAP, American Academy of Pediatrics; ACOG, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; AHA, American Heart Association; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; amox/clav, amoxicillin/clavulanate; ARF, acute rheumatic fever; bid, twice daily; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CPB, cardiopulmonary bypass; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; div, divided; DOT, directly observed therapy; GI, gastrointestinal; HSV, herpes simplex virus; IGRA, interferon-γ release assay; IM, intramuscular; INH, isoniazid; IV, intravenous; max, maximum; MRSA, methicillinresistant Staphylococcus aureus; NA, not applicable; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; PO, orally; PPD, purified protein derivative; q, every; qd, once daily; qid, 4 times daily; spp, species; TB, tuberculosis; tid, 3 times daily; TIG, tetanus immune globulin; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole; UTI, urinary tract infection.

Prophylaxis Category	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
Bacterial		
Bites, animal and human ¹⁻⁵ (Pasteurella multocida [animal], Eikenella corrodens [human], Staphylococcus spp, and Streptococcus spp)	Amox/clav 45 mg/kg/day PO div tid (amox/clav 7:1; see Chapter 4 for amox/clav ratio descriptions) for 3–5 days (All) OR ampicillin and clindamycin (BII). For penicillin allergy, consider ciprofloxacin (for <i>Pasteurella</i>) plus clindamycin (BIII).	Recommended for children who (1) have moderate to severe injuries, especially to the hand or face; (2) are immunocompromised; (3) are asplenic; or (4) have injuries that may have penetrated the periosteum or joint capsule (AII). ³ Consider rabies prophylaxis for at-risk animal bites througl state and local rabies consultation contacts (AI) ⁶ ; conside tetanus prophylaxis. ⁷ Human bites have a very high rate of infection (do not close open wounds routinely). Cat bites have a higher rate of infection than dog bites. Staphylococcus aureus coverage is only fair with amox/clav and provides no coverage for MRSA.

Endocarditis prophylaxis^{8,9}: Given that (1) endocarditis is rarely caused by dental/Gl procedures and (2) prophylaxis for procedures prevents an exceedingly small number of cases, the risks of antibiotics most often outweigh benefits. However, some "highest-risk" conditions are currently recommended for prophylaxis: (1) prosthetic heart valve (or prosthetic material used to repair a valve); (2) previous endocarditis; (3) cyanotic congenital heart disease that is unrepaired (or palliatively repaired with shunts and conduits); (4) congenital heart disease that is repaired but with defects at the site of repair adjacent to prosthetic material; (5) completely repaired congenital heart disease by using prosthetic material, for the first 6 mo after repair; or (6) cardiac transplant patients with valvulopathy. Routine prophylaxis has not been required for children with native valve abnormalities since updated guidelines were published in 2015.9 Follow-up data in children suggest that following these new guidelines, no increase in endocarditis has been detected. 10-13

 In highest-risk patients: dental procedures that involve manipulation of the gingival or periodontal region of teeth Amoxicillin 50 mg/kg (max 2 g) PO 1 h before procedure OR ampicillin or ceftriaxone or cefazolin, all at 50 mg/kg IM/IV 30–60 min before procedure

If penicillin allergy: clindamycin 20 mg/kg PO (1 h before) or IV (30 min before) OR azithromycin 15 mg/kg or clarithromycin 15 mg/kg (1 h before)

Prophylaxis Category	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments
– Genitourinary and GI procedures	None	No longer recommended
Lyme disease (Borrelia burgdorferi) ¹⁴	Doxycycline 4.4 mg/kg (max 200 mg), once. Dental staining should not occur with a single course of doxycycline. Amoxicillin prophylaxis is not well studied, and experts recommend a full 14-day course if amoxicillin is used.	ONLY for those in highly Lyme-endemic areas AND the tick has been attached for >36 h (and is engorged) AND prophylaxis started within 72 h of tick removal.
Meningococcus (Neisseria meningitidis) ^{15,16}	For prophylaxis of close contacts, including household members, child care center contacts, and anyone directly exposed to the patient's oral secretions (eg, through kissing, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, endotracheal intubation, endotracheal tube management) in the 7 days before symptom onset Rifampin Infants <1 mo: 5 mg/kg PO q12h for 4 doses Children ≥1 mo: 10 mg/kg PO q12h for 4 doses (max 600 mg/dose) OR Ceftriaxone Children <15 y: 125 mg IM once Children ≥16 y: 250 mg IM once OR Ciprofloxacin 500 mg PO once (adolescents and adults)	A single dose of ciprofloxacin should not present a significant risk of cartilage damage, but no prospective data exist in children for prophylaxis of meningococcal disease. For a child, an exposure for ciprofloxacin equivalent to that in adults would be 15–20 mg/kg as a single dose (max 500 mg). A few ciprofloxacin-resistant strains have now been reported. Insufficient data to recommend azithromycin at this time. Meningococcal vaccines that target the specific serogroup may also be recommended in case of an outbreak.
Pertussis ^{17,18}	Same regimen as for treatment of pertussis: azithromycin 10 mg/kg/day qd for 5 days OR clarithromycin (for infants >1 mo) 15 mg/kg/day div bid for 7 days OR erythromycin (estolate pref- erable) 40 mg/kg/day PO div qid for 14 days (All) Alternative: TMP/SMX 8 mg/kg/day div bid for 14 days (BIII)	Prophylaxis to family members; contacts defined by the CDC: persons within 21 days of exposure to an infectious pertussis case, who are at high risk for severe illness or who will have close contact with a person at high risk for severe illness (including infants, pregnant women in their third trimester, immunocompromised persons, those who have close contact with infants <12 mo). Close

contact can be considered face-to-face exposure within 3 feet of a symptomatic person; direct contact with respiratory, nasal, or oral secretions; or sharing of the same confined space in close proximity to an infected person for >1 h

Community-wide prophylaxis is not currently recommended.

Azithromycin and clarithromycin are better tolerated than erythromycin (see Chapter 2); azithromycin is preferred in exposed very young infants to reduce pyloric stenosis risk.

Tetanus	
(Clostridium	tetani)7,19

Need for Tetanus Vaccine or TIG ^a				
	Clean Wound		Contaminated Wound	
Number of past tetanus vaccine doses	Need for tetanus vaccine	Need for TIG 500 U IM ^a	Need for tetanus vaccine	Need for TIG 500 U IM ^a
<3 doses	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
≥3 doses	No (if <10 yb) Yes (if ≥10 yb)	No	No (if $<5 \text{ y}^{\text{b}}$) Yes (if $\ge 5 \text{ y}^{\text{b}}$)	No

^a IV immune globulin should be used when TIG is not available.

For deep, contaminated wounds, wound debridement is essential. For wounds that cannot be fully debrided, consider metronidazole 30 mg/kg/day PO div q8h until wound healing is underway and anaerobic conditions no longer exist, as short as 3–5 days (BIII).

^b Years since last tetanus-containing vaccine dose.

Prophylaxis Category	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments	
Tuberculosis (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) "Window prophylaxis" of exposed children <4 y, or immunocompromised patient (high risk for dissemination) ^{20,21} For treatment of latent TB infection, ^{21,22} see Tuberculosis in Table 15C.	Scenario 1: Previously uninfected child at high risk for serious infection and dissemination becomes exposed to a person with active disease. Exposed children <4 y, or immunocompromised patient (high risk for dissemination): rifampin 15–20 mg/kg/dose PO qd OR INH 10–20 mg/kg PO qd; for at least 2–3 mo (AlII), at which time cellular immunity is established and the PPD/IGRA may be more accurately assessed. If positive, treatment for latent TB should continue. Children ≥4 y may also begin prophylaxis postexposure, but if exposure is questionable, can wait 2–3 mo after exposure to assess for infection; if not given prophylaxis, and PPD/IGRA at 2–3 mo is positive and child remains asymptomatic at that time, see Scenario 2 below.	If PPD or IGRA remains negative at 2–3 mo and child remains well, consider stopping empiric therapy. However, tests at 2–3 mo may not be reliable in immunocompromised patients. The window prophylaxis regimen is to prevent infection in a young child or compromised host after exposure, rather than to treat latent asymptomatic infection.	
	Scenario 2: Asymptomatic child is found to have a positive skin test/IGRA test for TB, documenting latent TB infection; see Tuberculosis in Table 15C. Treat with at least 4 mo of rifampin OR 6 mo of INH, OR, for those ≥2 y, INH and rifapentine.		
Viral			
Herpes simplex virus			
– During pregnancy	For women with recurrent genital herpes, follow ACOG guidelines ²³ : acyclovir 400 mg PO tid; valacyclovir 500 mg PO bid from 36 wk of gestation until delivery (CII).	Neonatal HSV disease after unsuccessful maternal suppression has been documented. ²⁴	

– Neonatal: primary or nonprimary first clinical episode of maternal infection, neonate exposed at delivery ²⁵	Asymptomatic, exposed neonate: at 24 h after birth, sample mucosal sites for HSV culture (and PCR if possible) (see Comments), obtain CSF and whole-blood PCR for HSV DNA, obtain ALT, and start preemptive therapeutic acyclovir IV (60 mg/kg/day div q8h) for 10 days (All). Some experts would evaluate at birth for exposure following presumed maternal primary infection and start preemptive therapy rather than wait 24 h.	AAP Red Book 2021–2024 ²⁵ provides a management algorithm that determines the type of maternal infection and, thus, the appropriate evaluation and preemptive therapy of the neonate. Mucosal sites for culture: conjunctivae, mouth, nasopharynx, rectum. Infants treated with 10 days of preemptive IV therapy should not subsequently receive oral acyclovir suppression, because their HSV exposure never progressed to infection or disease. Any symptomatic baby, at any time, requires a full evaluation for invasive infection and IV acyclovir therapy for 14–21 days, depending on extent of disease.
– Neonatal: recurrent maternal infection, neonate exposed at delivery ²⁵	Asymptomatic, exposed neonate: at 24 h after birth, sample mucosal sites for HSV culture (and PCR if desired) (see Comments) and obtain whole-blood PCR for HSV DNA. Hold on therapy unless cultures or PCRs are positive, at which time the diagnostic evaluation should be completed (CSF PCR for HSV DNA, serum ALT) and preemptive therapeutic IV acyclovir (60 mg/kg/day div q8h) should be administered for 10 days (AIII).	AAP Red Book 2021–2024 ²⁵ provides a management algorithm that determines the type of maternal infection and, thus, the appropriate evaluation and preemptive therapy of the neonate. Mucosal sites for culture: conjunctivae, mouth, nasopharynx, rectum. Infants treated with 10 days of preemptive IV therapy should not subsequently receive oral acyclovir suppression, because their HSV exposure never progressed to infection or disease. Any symptomatic baby, at any time, requires a full evaluation for invasive infection and IV acyclovir therapy for 14–21 days, depending on extent of disease.
Neonatal: following symp- tomatic disease, to prevent recurrence	See Neonatal in Table 15C under Herpes Simplex Virus.	
– Keratitis (ocular) in other- wise healthy children	See Keratitis in Table 15C under Herpes Simplex Virus.	

A. POSTEXPOSURE ANT	A. POSTEXPOSURE ANTIMICROBIAL PROPHYLAXIS TO PREVENT INFECTION (continued)				
Prophylaxis Category	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments			
Influenza virus (A or B) ²⁶	Oseltamivir prophylaxis (AI) 3-≤8 mo: 3 mg/kg/dose qd for 10 days; 9-11 mo: 3.5 mg/kg/dose PO qd for 10 days²²; based on body weight for children ≥12 mo: ≤15 kg: 30 mg qd for 10 days; >15-23 kg: 45 mg qd for 10 days; >23-40 kg: 60 mg qd for 10 days; >40 kg: 75 mg qd for 10 days	Not routinely recommended for infants 0-≤3 mo unless exposure judged substantial (single event or ongoing [eg, breastfeeding mother with active influenza]), because of limited reported data on safety/efficacy and variability of drug exposure in this age-group			
	Zanamivir prophylaxis (AI) ≥5 y: 10 mg (two 5-mg inhalations) qd for as long as 28 days (community outbreaks) or 10 days (household settings)				
	Baloxavir prophylaxis (AI) <20 kg: single dose PO of 2 mg/kg ≥5 y: 20–79 kg: single dose PO of 40 mg ≥80 kg: single dose PO of 80 mg	-			
Rabies virus ²⁸	Rabies immune globulin, 20 IU/kg, infiltrate around wound, with remaining volume injected IM (AII) PLUS Rabies immunization (AII)	For dog, cat, or ferret bite from symptomatic animal , immediate rabies immune globulin and immunization; otherwise, can wait 10 days for observation of animal, if possible, before rabies immune globulin or vaccine. PLEASE evaluate the context of the bite. A provoked bite from a threatened or annoyed dog (especially a known dog) is not an indication for rabies prophylaxis. Bites of squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice and other rodents, rabbits, hares, and pikas almost never require anti-rabies prophylaxis. For bites of bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes, most other carnivores, and woodchucks, immediate rabies immune globulin and immunization (regard as rabid unless geographic area is known to be free of rabies or until animal's condition is proven negative by laboratory tests).			

Varicella-zoster virus²⁹ Acyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose PO qid (max daily dose 3,200 mg) or valacyclovir 20 mg/kg/dose PO tid (max daily dose 3,000 mg) beginning 7 days after exposure and continuing for 7–10 days

Preemptive antiviral therapy in those who have been exposed to varicella, during the incubation period, to prevent symptomatic infection: for immunocompromised patients without evidence of immunity from past infection or vaccine or for immunocompetent, susceptible patients for whom varicella may be severe (eg, adolescents)

B. LONG-TERM A	B. LONG-TERM ANTIMICROBIAL PROPHYLAXIS TO PREVENT SYMPTOMATIC NEW INFECTION				
Prophylaxis Category	Therapy (evidence grade)	Comments			
Bacterial otitis media ^{30,31}	Amoxicillin or other antibiotics can be used in half the therapeutic dose qd or bid to prevent infections if the benefits outweigh the risks of (1) emergence/selection of resistant organisms for that child (and contacts) and (2) antibiotic side effects.	True, recurrent acute bacterial otitis is far less common in the era of conjugate pneumococcal immunization. To prevent recurrent infections, as alternative to antibiotic prophylaxis, also consider the risks and benefits of placing tympanostomy tubes to improve middle ear ventilation.³¹ Studies have demonstrated that amoxicillin, sulfisoxazole, and TMP/SMX are effective. However, antimicrobial prophylaxis may alter the nasopharyngeal flora and foster colonization with resistant organisms, compromising long-term efficacy of the prophylactic drug. Continuous PO administered antimicrobial prophylaxis should be reserved for control of recurrent acute otitis media, only when defined as ≥3 distinct and well-documented episodes during a period of 6 mo or ≥4 episodes during a period of 12 mo, which is now uncommon in the era of conjugate pneumococcal vaccines.			
Rheumatic fever	For >27.3 kg (>60 lb): 1.2 million U penicillin G benzathine, q4wk (q3wk for high-risk children) For <27.3 kg: 600,000 U penicillin G benzathine, q4wk (q3wk for high-risk children) OR Penicillin V (phenoxymethyl), 250 mg PO bid	AHA policy statement at www.ahajournals.org/doi/epub/10.1161/ CirculationAHA.109.191959 (accessed September 30, 2022). Doses studied many years ago, with no new data; ARF is an uncom- mon disease currently in the United States. Alternatives to penicillin include amoxicillin, sulfisoxazole, or macrolides, including erythro- mycin, azithromycin, and clarithromycin.			
Urinary tract infection, recurrent ³²⁻³⁸	TMP/SMX 3 mg/kg/dose of TMP PO qd OR nitro- furantoin 1–2 mg/kg PO qd at bedtime; more rapid resistance may develop by using beta- lactams (BII).	Only for those with grade III–V reflux or with recurrent febrile UTI: prophylaxis no longer recommended for patients with grade I–II (some also exclude grade III) reflux. Prophylaxis prevents infection but may not prevent scarring. Early treatment of new infections is recommended for children not given prophylaxis. Resistance eventually develops to every antibiotic; follow resistance patterns for each patient.			

Fungal: For detailed information on prevention of candidiasis in the neonate, see Chapter 2; for detailed information on prevention of fungal infection (*Candida* spp. *Asperaillus* spp. *Rhizopus* spp) in children undergoing chemotherapy, see Chapter 5.

Pneumocystis jiroveci (previously Pneumocystis carinii)^{39–42} Non-HIV infection regimens (stem cell transplants, solid-organ transplants, many malignancies, and T-cell immunodeficiencies [congenital or secondary to treatment]). Duration of prophylaxis depends on the underlying condition.

TMP/SMX 5–10 mg/kg/day of TMP PO, in 2 div doses, q12h, either qd or 2 times/wk or 3 times/wk, on consecutive days or alternating days (Al); ORTMP/SMX 5–10 mg/kg/day of TMP PO as a single dose, qd, given 3 times/wk on consecutive days (Al) (once-weekly regimens have also been successful); OR dapsone 2 mg/kg (max 100 mg) PO qd, or 4 mg/kg (max 200 mg) once weekly; OR atovaquone 30 mg/kg/day for infants 1–3 mo; 45 mg/kg/day for infants/children 4–24 mo; and 30 mg/kg/day for children >24 mo.

Prophylaxis in specific populations based on degree of immunosuppression. For children with HIV, please see the ClinicalInfo.HIV.gov for information on pediatric opportunistic infections: https:// clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/guidelines/pediatric-opportunistic-infection/ pneumocystis-jirovecii-pneumonia?view=full (updated October 6, 2013; accessed September 30, 2022).

Inhaled pentamidine only for those who cannot tolerate the regimens noted above.

IGRA, with no clinical or radio-

graphic evidence of active disease)

INH 10-20 mg/kg PO gd for 9 mo (≥12 mo for an immunocom-

For exposure to drug-resistant strains, consult with TB specialist.

INH 20-40 mg/kg PO DOT twice weekly for 9 mo

promised child), OR

C. PROPHYLAXIS OF SYMPTOMATIC DISEASE IN CHILDREN WHO HAVE ASYMPTOMATIC INFECTION/LATENT INFECTION Therapy (evidence grade) **Prophylaxis Category** Comments Herpes simplex virus Follow absolute neutrophil counts at 2 and 4 wk, then monthly Neonatal: following symptomatic dis-Acvclovir 300 ma/m²/dose PO tid for ease, to prevent recurrence25 6 mo. following cessation of IV acvduring prophylactic/suppressive therapy. clovir treatment of acute disease (AI) Oral acyclovir suppression is not indicated for patients who received IV acyclovir as postexposure antimicrobial prophylaxis to prevent infection. Keratitis (ocular) in otherwise healthy Suppressive acyclovir therapy for fre-Decisions to continue suppressive therapy should be revisited children quent recurrence (no pediatric data): annually. The frequency of dosing may need to be increased long-term suppression (≥1 y) of to gid or the drug may need to be changed to valacyclovir, if recurrent infection with oral acyclobreakthrough ocular infection occurs. Potential risks must vir 80 mg/kg/day in 3 div doses balance potential benefits to vision (BIII). (max dose 800 mg) (AIII) Check for acyclovir resistance for those who relapse while on appropriate therapy. Suppression oftentimes required for many years. Watch for severe recurrence at conclusion of suppression. Tuberculosis²⁰⁻²² (latent TB infection Rifampin 15-20 mg/kg/dose gd, pref-Alternative regimens: [asymptomatic, true infection], erably the entire daily dose given ad INH 10-20 mg/kg PO ad AND rifampin 15-20 mg/kg/dose daily defined by a positive skin test or (max 600 mg) for 4 mg, OR (max 600 mg) for 3 mg, OR

For children ≥2 y, once-weekly DOT for

12 wk using BOTH INH 15 mg/kg/

dose (max 900 mg) AND rifapentine:

10.0-14.0 kg: 300 mg; 14.1-25.0 kg:

450 mg; 25.1–32.0 kg: 600 mg; 32.1–49.9 kg: 750 mg; ≥50.0 kg:

900 mg (max)

D. SURGICAL/PROCEDURE PROPHYLAXIS43-54

The CDC National Healthcare Safety Network uses a classification of surgical procedure-related wound infections based on an estimation of the load of bacterial contamination: Class I, clean; Class II, clean-contaminated; Class III, contaminated; and Class IV, dirty/infected.^{44,54} Other major factors creating risk for postoperative surgical site infection include the duration of surgery (a longer-duration operation, defined as one that exceeded the 75th percentile for a given procedure) and the medical comorbidities of the patient, as determined by an American Society of Anesthesiologists score of III, IV, or V (presence of severe systemic disease that results in functional limitations, is life-threatening, or is expected to preclude survival from the operation). The virulence/pathogenicity of bacteria inoculated and the presence of foreign debris/devitalized tissue/surgical material in the wound are also considered risk factors for infection.

For all categories of surgical prophylaxis, dosing recommendations are derived from (1) choosing agents based on the organisms likely to be responsible for inoculation of the surgical site; (2) giving the agents at an optimal time (<60 min for cefazolin, or <60–120 min for vancomycin and ciprofloxacin) before starting the operation to achieve appropriate serum and tissue exposures at the time of incision; (3) providing additional doses during the procedure at times based on the standard dosing guideline for that agent; and (4) stopping the agents at the end of the procedure or for no longer than 24 h after the end of the procedure. Optimal duration of prophylaxis after delayed sternal or abdominal closure is not well-defined in adults or children.

Bathing with soaps or an antiseptic agent the night before surgery is recommended, based on limited data.⁵⁰

Procedure/Operation	Recommended Agents	Preoperative Dose	Intraoperative Re-dosing Interval (h) for Prolonged Surgery
Cardiovascular			
Cardiac ⁵⁵	Cefazolin	30 mg/kg	4
Staphylococcus epidermidis, Staphylococcus aureus, Corynebacterium spp	Vancomycin, if MRSA likely	15 mg/kg	8
	Ampicillin/sulbactam if enteric gram-negative bacilli a concern	50 mg/kg of ampicillin	3
Cardiac with CPB ^{47,56}	Cefazolin	30 mg/kg	15 mg/kg at CPB start and also at rewarming. Begin postoperative prophylaxis 30 mg/kg at 8 h after intra- operative rewarming dose.

D. SURGICAL/PROCEDURE PROPHYLAXIS ⁴³⁻⁵⁴ (continued)				
Procedure/Operation	Recommended Agents	Preoperative Dose	Intraoperative Re-dosing Interval (h) for Prolonged Surgery	
Cardiovascular				
Vascular	Cefazolin, OR	30 mg/kg	4	
S epidermidis, S aureus, Corynebacterium spp, gram- negative enteric bacilli, particularly for procedures in the groin	Vancomycin, if MRSA likely	15 mg/kg	8	
Thoracic (noncardiac)				
Lobectomy, video-assisted thoraco-	Cefazolin, OR	30 mg/kg	4	
scopic surgery, thoracotomy (but no prophylaxis needed for simple chest tube placement for pneumothorax)	Ampicillin/sulbactam if enteric gram-negative bacilli a concern	50 mg/kg of ampicillin	3	
	Vancomycin or clindamycin if drug	15 mg/kg vancomycin	8	
	allergy or MRSA likely	10 mg/kg clindamycin	6	
Gastrointestinal				
Gastroduodenal Enteric gram-negative bacilli, respiratory tract gram-positive cocci	7 1		4	
Biliary procedure, open Enteric gram-negative bacilli, enterococci, <i>Clostridia</i>	Cefazolin, OR	30 mg/kg	4	
	Cefoxitin	40 mg/kg	2	
Appendectomy, non-perforated	Cefoxitin, OR	40 mg/kg	2	
(no prophylaxis needed postoperatively if appendix is intact)57	Cefazolin and metronidazole	30 mg/kg cefazolin, 10 mg/kg metronidazole	4 for cefazolin 8 for metronidazole	

Complicated appendicitis or other ruptured colorectal	Cefazolin and metronidazole, OR	30 mg/kg cefazolin, 10 mg/kg metronidazole	4 for cefazolin 8 for metronidazole
viscus ⁵⁸ Enteric gram-negative bacilli, enterococci, anaerobes. For complicated appendicitis, antibiotics provided to treat ongoing infection, rather than prophylaxis.	Cefoxitin, OR	40 mg/kg	2
	Ceftriaxone and metronidazole, OR	50 mg/kg ceftriaxone, 10 mg/kg metronidazole	12 for ceftriaxone 8 for metronidazole
	Ertapenem, OR	15 mg/kg (max 500 mg) for children 3 mo−12 y; 1 g for children ≥13 y	8
	Meropenem, OR	20 mg/kg	4
	Imipenem	20 mg/kg	4
Genitourinary			
Cystoscopy (requires prophylaxis only for children with suspected active UTI or those having foreign material placed) Enteric gram-negative bacilli, enterococci	Cefazolin, OR	30 mg/kg	4
	TMP/SMX (if low local resistance), OR Select a second- (cefuroxime) or third-generation cephalosporin or fluoroquinolone (ciprofloxacin) if the child is known to be colonized with cefazolin-resistant, TMP/SMX-resistant strains.	4–5 mg/kg	NA
Open or laparoscopic surgery Enteric gram-negative bacilli, enterococci	Cefazolin	30 mg/kg	4

D. SURGICAL/PROCEDURE PROPHYLAXIS ⁴³⁻⁵⁴ (continued)				
Procedure/Operation	Recommended Agents	Preoperative Dose	Intraoperative Re-dosing Interval (h) for Prolonged Surgery	
Head and neck surgery				
Assuming incision through respiratory tract mucosa Anaerobes, enteric gram-negative bacilli, <i>S aureus</i>	Clindamycin, OR	10 mg/kg	6	
	Cefazolin and metronidazole	30 mg/kg cefazolin, 10 mg/kg metronidazole	4 for cefazolin 8 for metronidazole	
	Ampicillin/sulbactam if enteric gram-negative bacilli a concern	50 mg/kg of ampicillin	3	
Neurosurgery				
Craniotomy, ventricular shunt placement Sepidermidis, Saureus	Cefazolin, OR	30 mg/kg	4	
	Vancomycin, if MRSA likely	15 mg/kg	8	
Orthopedic				
Internal fixation of fractures, spinal rod placement, prosthetic joints <i>S epidermidis, S aureus</i>	Cefazolin, OR	30 mg/kg	4	
	Vancomycin, if MRSA likely	15 mg/kg	8	

Trauma			
Exceptionally varied; no prospective, comparative data in children; agents should focus on skin flora (<i>S epidermidis, S aureus</i>) as well as the flora inoculated into the wound, based on the trauma exposure, that may include enteric gram-negative bacilli, anaerobes (including <i>Clostridia</i> spp), and fungi. Cultures at time of wound exploration are critical to focus therapy for potential pathogens inoculated into the wound.	Cefazolin (for skin), OR	30 mg/kg	4
	Vancomycin (for skin), if MRSA likely, OR	15 mg/kg	8
	Meropenem OR imipenem (for anaerobes, including <i>Clostridia</i> spp, and non-fermenting gram- negative bacilli), OR	20 mg/kg for either	4
	Gentamicin and metronidazole (for non-fermenting gram- negative bacilli and anaerobes, including <i>Clostridia</i> spp), OR	2.5 mg/kg gentamicin, 10 mg/kg metronidazole	6 for gentamicin 8 for metronidazole
	Piperacillin/tazobactam	100 mg/kg piperacillin component	2

16. Approach to Antibiotic Allergies

Introduction

Antibiotics are a common cause of drug reactions. Beta-lactam antibiotics are most commonly implicated, with about 10% of the US population reporting a history of penicillin allergy. However, antibiotic allergies are frequently mislabeled and, even if present, are often outgrown over time. In such cases, unnecessary use of broad-spectrum antibiotics may result in suboptimal therapy, medication-related side effects, the development of antibiotic resistance, and increased health care costs. More than 90% of those with a positive history of an antibiotic allergy are ultimately able to safely tolerate the antibiotic. Thus, it is important to use a systematic approach to children with reported antibiotic allergies, including the routine evaluation of reported penicillin allergy.

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI); American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; and Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology practice parameters provide an excellent overview of drug allergies; the following information summarizes recommendations with respect to antibiotic allergies from these guidelines and other resources listed in Suggested Reading later in this chapter.

Classification of Antibiotic Allergies

Antibiotic allergies are immune-mediated reactions to a drug that occur in a previously sensitized child. More commonly, adverse drug reactions are not immune mediated and do not represent a true antibiotic allergy (but are often mislabeled as such). It is important to distinguish between clinically relevant categories of adverse antibiotic reactions (Table 16-1).

Classification	Mechanism	Characteristics	Examples	Future Use of Antibiotic
Immediate hypersensitivity reactions	Type I IgE mediated	Anaphylactic May be life-threatening Occur within minutes of exposure to the antibiotic Uncommon	Immediate urticaria Angioedema Laryngeal edema/stridor Bronchospasm/wheezing Cardiorespiratory symptoms	Future use of antibiotic contraindicated. If no alternative, administer via desensitization protocol (see Table 16-3).
Delayed drug- induced exanthems	Type IV Cell mediated	Non-anaphylactic Not life-threatening Typically occur after several days of antibiotic exposure More common	Delayed maculopapular rash (typically fixed/nonmobile, non-pruritic) Delayed urticaria	Future use of antibiotic <i>may</i> be considered.
Severe cutaneous adverse reactions	Type IV T-cell mediated	Severe delayed hypersensitivity reactions May be life-threatening Rare	SJS/TEN DRESS AGEP	Future use of antibiotic contraindicated
Serum sickness	Type III Immune-complex mediated (drug- antibody complex)	Delayed reaction at 1–3 wk after exposure May occur earlier if preformed antibody present Uncommon	Classic symptoms: fever, rash, polyarthralgia, or polyarthritis May also have urticaria and lymphadenopathy	Future use of antibiotic contraindicated
Nonimmune drug reaction	Nonallergic response to a drug	Multiple types; examples include	Drug intolerance	Future use of antibiotic may be considered by using prevention/management strategies.

Abbreviations: AGEP, acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis; DRESS, drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms; GI, gastrointestinal; SJS, Stevens-Johnson syndrome; TEN, toxic epidermal necrolysis.

General Approach

Table 16-2 describes a modified stepwise approach to the workup and management of potential antibiotic allergies.

TABLE 16-2. STEPWISE APPROACH TO REPORTED ANTIBIOTIC ALLERGIES				
Steps	Components	Notes		
Step 1	Perform a thorough history and physical examination; review available clinical data.	Attempt to classify the reaction. Timing in relation to antibiotic administration Review of previous antibiotic administration history and other medications Review of associated signs and symptoms Physical manifestations (examination and/or review of photos, if available) Review of imaging/laboratory results (if available)		
Step 2	Determine if the adverse reaction is likely due to antibiotic.	If yes, determine type of suspected reaction (eg, immediate hypersensitivity reaction vs delayed drug-induced exanthem vs nonimmune adverse drug reaction). If no, consider removing antibiotic allergy label.		
Step 3	If possible immediate hypersensitivity reaction • Perform confirmatory testing (if available); consider referral to allergist.	Testing typically performed ≥4–6 wk after symptom resolution. Penicillin skin testing can be used to test for IgE-mediated penicillin allergy. Although not standardized, most allergy clinics will also perform ampicillin and cefazolin skin testing.		
	If suspected delayed drug- induced exanthem (not SCAR) or nonimmune drug reaction • Consider strategies for evaluation and/or de-labeling.	Depending on type of suspected reaction Consider management/prevention strategies if nonimmune. May consider skin testing. May consider observed challenge. May be able to remove antibiotic allergy label.		
Step 4	Review available results.	Confirmed not allergic OK to give antibiotic. Remove antibiotic allergy label. Confirmed allergic Choose alternative antibiotic. Perform desensitization procedure if need to give antibiotic. Possibly allergic Choose alternative antibiotic. Perform observed challenge before giving antibiotic.		

Abbreviation: SCAR, severe cutaneous adverse reaction.

Adapted from Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters; American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Drug allergy: an updated practice parameter. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2010;105(4):259–273 PMID: 20934625 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anai.2010.08.002.

Table 16-3 details protocols.

TABLE 16-3.	TABLE 16-3. OBSERVED CHALLENGE AND DESENSITIZATION PROTOCOLS				
Protocol	Details	Notes			
Observed challenge	Test dosing of antibiotic. Perform controlled administration of single dose or divided increasing doses (graded challenge) until full dose reached. Example graded challenge: give 10%–25% of therapeutic dose and observe for 15–30 min (about 75% will react within 20 min), then give rest of dose and observe for another 30–60 min (up to 2 h; about 100% will react within 2 h).	Used when low likelihood of IgE- mediated allergy Can verify child will not have immediate hypersensitivity reaction Does not alter immune response or induce tolerance			
Desensitization procedure	Rapid induction of antibiotic tolerance Administration of incremental doses Performed under the guidance of an allergist in a controlled setting	Used when high likelihood of IgE- mediated allergy and no alternative antibiotics available Alters immune response by providing <i>temporary</i> tolerance			

Adapted from Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters; American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Drug allergy: an updated practice parameter. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2010;105(4):259–273 PMID: 20934625 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anai.2010.08.002.

Specific Antibiotic Allergies and Allergic Cross-reactivity

Beta-lactam Antibiotics

Penicillin

An AAAAI position statement recommends routine evaluation of reported penicillin allergies by skin testing. Penicillin skin testing has a negative predictive value near 100%. If negative, the child may receive penicillin with minimal risk (depending on the severity of the prior reaction, the first dose may be given via observed challenge). The positive predictive value of penicillin skin testing appears to be high. If positive, penicillin should be avoided (if no acceptable alternatives are available, desensitization should be performed).

Some physicians screen for children with low-risk histories who may bypass penicillin skin testing and proceed directly to an observed challenge to confirm tolerance. Of note, in vitro serum testing for penicillin-specific IgE has an undefined predictive value and should not be used in lieu of skin testing and/or an observed challenge.

Penicillin allergic cross-reactivity: The rate of allergic cross-reactivity between penicillin and cephalosporins was traditionally reported to be about 10%, although more recent studies suggest a rate of less than 2%. Cross-reactivity is more common with some first-generation cephalosporins (as these antibiotics may have similar R-group side chains; see Cephalosporins later in this chapter). Most children with a history of penicillin allergy tolerate cephalosporins, particularly if the reaction was not severe. If a child has a negative

penicillin skin test result, the child may safely receive cephalosporins. Of children who have a positive penicillin skin test result, about 2% will react to some cephalosporins. **Table 16-4** details various approaches to cephalosporin administration in children with a reported history of penicillin allergy.

TABLE 16-4. APPROACHES TO CEPHALOSPORIN ADMINISTRATION IN CHILDREN WITH REPORTED HISTORY OF PENICILLIN ALLERGY			
Skin Test	Options for Cephalosporin Administration		
Penicillin skin test	Negative result OK to give Positive result Choose alternative (non–beta-lactam) antibiotic. Administer via observed challenge or desensitization (depending on severity of prior reaction).		
Cephalosporin skin test (not standardized)	Negative result Administer via observed challenge. Positive result Choose alternative (non-beta-lactam) antibiotic. Choose alternative cephalosporin (with dissimilar R-group side chain) and administer via cautious observed challenge or desensitization (depending on severity of prior reaction). Administer via desensitization if no alternative antibiotic.		
Skin testing unavailable	Administer via cautious observed challenge or desensitization (depending on severity of prior reaction).		

Adapted from Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters; American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Drug allergy: an updated practice parameter. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2010;105(4):259–273 PMID: 20934625 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anai.2010.08.002.

Cephalosporins

The rate of allergic reactions to cephalosporins is significantly lower than of penicillin. Cephalosporin skin testing is not standardized, although many allergists will perform cefazolin skin testing by using a nonirritating concentration of the antibiotic. While a positive skin test result suggests the presence of specific IgE antibodies, a negative skin test result does not definitively rule out an allergy, and an observed challenge should be considered before administration.

Cephalosporin allergic cross-reactivity: Most immediate hypersensitivity reactions with cephalosporins are directed at the R-group side chains (rather than the core beta-lactam ring). Tables are available that detail the beta-lactam antibiotics that share similar R-group side chains (see Suggested Reading later in this chapter and **Table 16-5**). If there is a history of an immediate hypersensitivity reaction to a given cephalosporin, beta-lactams with similar R-group side chains should be avoided. However, beta-lactams with non-similar R-group side chains may be considered, with the first dose given via observed challenge or desensitization (depending on severity of the prior reaction). For children

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with a history of cephalosporin allergy, penicillin skin testing should be considered before administering penicillins. If negative, the child may receive penicillins; if positive, penicillins should be avoided (if no acceptable alternatives are available, desensitization should be performed). If penicillin skin testing is unavailable, a cautious observed challenge should be performed before administration.

TABLE 16-5. CLINICALLY RELEVANT BETA-LACTAM ANTIBIOTICS WITH SIMILAR R-GROUP SIDE CHAINS

Antibiotics in *italics* are in different classes and/or generations.

Antibiotic	Beta-lactam Antibiotics Sharing Similar R-group Side Chains	
Penicillins	Penicillin G, penicillin VK	
Aminopenicillins	Amoxicillin, <i>cefadroxil, cefprozil</i> Ampicillin, <i>cefaclor, cephalexin</i>	
First-generation cephalosporins	Cefaclor, cefadroxil, cephalexin, <i>cefprozil, amoxicillin, ampicillin</i> Cephalothin, <i>cefoxitin</i> NOTE: Cefazolin has unique R-group side chains.	
Second-generation cephalosporins	Cefoxitin, cephalothin Cefuroxime, cefoxitin Cefprozil, cefaclor, cefadroxil, cephalexin, amoxicillin, ampicillin NOTE: Cefotetan and cefamandole have unique R-group side chains.	
Third-, fourth-, and fifth- generation cephalosporins	Ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, cefepime Cefdinir, cefixime Ceftaroline, ceftobiprole, ceftolozane/tazobactam Cefditoren, cefpodoxime Ceftazidime, <i>aztreonam</i>	
Monobactams	Aztreonam, ceftazidime	

Adapted from Norton AE, Konvinse K, Phillips EJ, Broyles AD. Antibiotic allergy in pediatrics. *Pediatrics*. 2018;141(5):e20172497 PMID: 29700201 https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-2497.

Aminopenicillins

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions to amoxicillin or ampicillin are less common than to penicillins. Skin testing with aminopenicillins is not as standardized as penicillin, although many allergists will perform testing by using a nonirritating concentration of ampicillin along with the major determinants for penicillin. It should be noted that the negative predictive value is not known, so an observed challenge may be considered in the setting of negative aminopenicillin skin testing results. Some physicians will identify children with low-risk histories who may bypass skin testing and proceed directly to an observed challenge.

Delayed drug-induced exanthems are relatively common with aminopenicillin use in children. The reaction is hypothesized to occur in the setting of a concomitant viral illness, with the classic example being an amoxicillin-induced rash in the setting of a child with acute Epstein-Barr virus infection (occurs in nearly 100%). In such cases, skin testing or an observed challenge may be considered before a future course is given.

Aminopenicillin allergic cross-reactivity: Immediate hypersensitivity reactions to aminopenicillins may be directed at either the core penicillin determinants or the R-group side chains. If the reaction is due to IgE antibodies versus the R-group side chains, children will have a negative penicillin skin test result and will be able to tolerate other penicillins. If there is a history of an immediate hypersensitivity reaction to an aminopenicillin, beta-lactams with the same R-group side chains should be avoided (see **Table 16-5**). If there is no alternative antibiotic, desensitization should be performed.

Monobactams

Allergic reactions to aztreonam are much less common than those to other beta-lactam antibiotics.

Monobactam allergic cross-reactivity: Monobactams do not exhibit allergic cross-reactivity with other beta-lactams, except for ceftazidime (which shares an R-group side chain with aztreonam).

Carbapenems

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions to carbapenems appear to be rare. Carbapenem skin testing is not standardized and has unknown predictive value.

Carbapenem allergic cross-reactivity: Allergic cross-reactivity between other beta-lactams and carbapenems is extremely low (<1%). One approach for children with a history of penicillin allergy is to perform a penicillin skin test. If negative, it is safe to use carbapenems; if positive, the child should receive carbapenems via observed challenge. If no penicillin skin test is performed, consider giving carbapenems via observed challenge.

Non-beta-lactam Antibiotics

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions to non-beta-lactam antibiotics are uncommon (Table 16-6). There are no validated tests to evaluate IgE-mediated reactions for these antibiotic classes (eg, skin testing is not standardized and lacks adequate predictive value). If the prior reaction to a non-beta-lactam antibiotic is consistent with an immediate hypersensitivity reaction, that antibiotic should be used only if there is no alternative agent and then only via desensitization.

TABLE 16-6. N	ON-BETA-LACTAM ANT	IBIOTIC REACTIONS
Antibiotic Class	Frequency of Immediate Hypersensitivity Reactions	Other Antibiotic Reaction Notes
Aminoglycoside	Rare	None
Glycopeptide	Rare	Vancomycin frequently causes non-IgE-mediated histamine release (pseudoallergic reaction), often related to the rapidity of infusion, which is now called "vancomycin glycopeptide flushing syndrome." This syndrome is not a contraindication; premedicate with antihistamines and slow the infusion rate.
Lincosamide	Rare	None
Macrolide	Rare	Delayed drug-induced exanthems more common
Quinolone	Increasingly reported with expanded use	Delayed drug-induced exanthems in about 2%
Sulfonamide	Rare	Delayed drug-induced exanthems more common Severe cutaneous adverse reactions possible
Tetracyclines	Rare	None

Non-beta-lactam antibiotics allergic cross-reactivity: Importantly, there is no reported allergic cross-reactivity with beta-lactam antibiotics (or with alternative classes of nonbeta-lactam antibiotics). There may be allergic cross-reactivity within the same antibiotic class (eg, some quinolone or macrolide groups).

Alternative Antibiotic Options for Common Infections

As detailed previously, it is important to identify children who are mislabeled or who have outgrown a reported allergy and can safely receive the antibiotic. For children with documented allergies, alternative antibiotic selection should be as narrow in spectrum as possible while balancing the effectiveness, rate of resistance, side effects, and potential allergic cross-reactivity of the medication. Table 16-7 details alternative antibiotic options for select common infections. Consider the susceptibilities of the pathogens for each infection category, as all alternatives may not cover the required antibacterial spectrum equally well.

Infection Category (Antibiotic Allergy)	Alternative Antibiotic Options
Acute otitis media (Amoxicillin allergy)	Third-generation cephalosporin (IV: ceftriaxone, cefotaxime; PO: cefdinir, cefixime, cefpodoxime) Azithromycin (Rate of macrolide resistance in <i>Pneumococcus</i> is high.) Clindamycin (does not cover <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>) Levofloxacin
GAS pharyngitis (Penicillin/amoxicillin allergy)	Macrolides (azithromycin, erythromycin) Clindamycin Cephalosporins (5-day course is FDA approved for some oral cephalosporins.) NOTE: Not TMP/SMX (does not reliably prevent rheumatic fever).
Community-acquired pneumonia (Amoxicillin/ampicillin allergy)	Cephalosporins active against <i>Pneumococcus</i> (IV: ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, ceftaroline; PO: cefdinir, cefixime, cefpodoxime) Vancomycin IV Levofloxacin IV or PO Linezolid IV or PO
Atypical pneumonia (Macrolide allergy)	Doxycycline IV or PO Levofloxacin IV or PO
Skin and soft tissue/ osteoarticular infections (due to <i>Staphylococcus</i> <i>aureus</i> or <i>Streptococcus</i> spp) (Varied allergies)	Penicillinase-resistant penicillins (IV: oxacillin, nafcillin; PO: dicloxacillin) First-generation cephalosporins (IV: cefazolin; PO: cephalexin) Ceftaroline IV (will cover MRSA) Clindamycin IV or PO TMP/SMX (skin) IV or PO Linezolid IV or PO Vancomycin IV Daptomycin IV NOTE: When choosing option, consider if MRSA coverage needed.

Abbreviations: FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; GAS, group A streptococcus; IV, intravenous; MRSA, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; PO, oral; spp, species; TMP/SMX, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.

Suggested Reading

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17. Antibiotic Stewardship

Antibiotic therapy is one of the most important advances in health care, along with the development of vaccines and the improvements in environmental health at the beginning of the 20th century. Appropriate use of antibiotics can be lifesaving. However, the use of antibiotics is also associated with increased microbial resistance, toxicity to the child, and cost. Therefore, antibiotic prescribing should be done carefully and responsibly to maximize benefit while minimizing adverse or unintended consequences. It is this need for balance on which the term *antibiotic stewardship* is based. *Merriam-Webster* defines *stewardship* as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." It is not the purpose of antibiotic stewardship to drive antibiotic use inexorably toward a hypothetical zero, denying the benefit of treatment to those in need. It is, instead, the role of the steward to ensure that the right drug, at the right dose, for the right duration, is administered the right way to the right host for a particular infection caused by the "right" pathogen. In so doing, the steward maximizes the effect of the antibiotic while ensuring its continued availability and efficacy for the patients who follow.

To optimize use, there are 7 principles that should be followed (**Table 17-1**). These include infection prevention, diagnostic stewardship, effective empiric therapy for suspected infections, narrowing or stopping of therapy as additional information becomes available and the infection resolves, avoidance of unnecessary therapy by treating only infections, optimization of administration, and multidisciplinary accountability.

Infection Prevention

Infection prevention is a key component of antibiotic stewardship. Put simply, each infection that does not occur is one less that will require antibiotic treatment. Effective infection prevention strategies vary by site and by pathogen, and a full discussion of infection prevention is beyond the scope of this book. We direct the interested reader to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention library.² The single most effective strategy for infection prevention remains adherence to hand hygiene. Effective hand hygiene can reduce person-to-person spread of pathogens that are spread by contact and droplet transmission, and studies have shown that infection rates correlate closely with hand hygiene performance regardless of other strategies that may be in place.

Diagnostic Stewardship

As discussed later in this chapter, selecting an appropriate antibiotic regimen for a patient depends largely on obtaining the proper test results for infection. Samples for culture or molecular diagnostic tests should be obtained before antibiotic therapy whenever possible, and the samples should be collected in a manner that will maximize the likelihood ratio of a positive or negative test result. For example, it matters if a urine culture that yields *Escherichia coli* was obtained via catheterization or by bag collection, just as it matters if a sterile urine culture was obtained before administering antibiotics or 48 hours after administration. Culture of non-sterile sites, such as the skin, mucous membranes, and trachea, may be useful in specific scenarios, but positive culture results from non-sterile sites must be interpreted with caution in the context of the pretest probability of

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TABLE 17-1. OPT	TIMIZING ANTIBIOTIC USE
Facets of Stewardship	Examples for Implementation
Infection prevention	 Effective infection control and prevention Close attention to hand hygiene
Diagnostic stewardship	 Obtain appropriate cultures before antibiotic therapy. Avoid culturing non-sterile sites, and interpret cultures from those sites carefully. Consider molecular diagnostics when appropriate. Use ancillary laboratory tests for infection, but remember that positive predictive value may be poor.
Empiric therapy	 Use the narrowest-spectrum agents that cover the likely pathogens to achieve the necessary cure rate for your patient, infection site, severity of infection, and underlying comorbid conditions. Use an antibiotic that penetrates the infected compartment (eg, achieves effective exposure at the site of infection) (see Chapter 11). Use local epidemiology (including antibiogram) and previous patient cultures to guide therapy.
Reevaluation of therapy	 Discontinue empiric antibiotics when infection is no longer suspected. For proven infection, adjust antibiotics once speciation and susceptibilities are available. Treat for the shortest effective duration, and follow up to ensure a successful outcome.
Treatment only of infections	Avoid treating Colonization Contaminants Noninfectious conditions
Optimization of administration	 Closely collaborate with pharmacists. Use protocols that maximize pharmacodynamics of agent. Perform therapeutic drug monitoring where appropriate.
Accountability	 Multidisciplinary team Prospective audit and feedback Guarantee of representation and buy-in by including "champions"

infection. Similarly, molecular diagnostic test results from nucleic acid amplification or next-generation sequencing (usually obtained from blood and infected tissue sites) are frequently positive even after antibiotics have been given to children and sensitivity of cultures decreases quickly.3 Next-generation sequencing has not been prospectively studied in children; is likely to pick up a low signal by colonization of commensal organisms that may not represent invasive infection. Those with mucositis may have DNA from multiple organisms detected, which does not necessarily indicate invasive infection by all detected bacteria. Finally, abnormal values of ancillary tests, such as white blood cell count, C-reactive protein (CRP), and procalcitonin, may lead to unnecessary antibiotic

use when the likelihood of infection is low. A careful diagnostic approach is needed to optimize antibiotic use.

Empiric Therapy

Appropriate therapy for a suspected infection should be administered once the appropriate diagnostic test results have been obtained. This empiric therapy should be based on a variety of factors, including the organisms most likely to cause the suspected infection, the body compartment(s) infected, host characteristics including renal and hepatic clearance, drug-drug interactions, and local antibiotic susceptibilities. Ideally, empiric therapy would be the narrowest-possible regimen that penetrates the infected space and covers the most likely organisms. These parameters may change over time; for example, in the setting of a local methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) outbreak, clinicians might consider different empiric therapy for skin and soft tissue infection than they would otherwise. Similarly, prior antibiotic susceptibilities of a recurrent infection should be used to guide empiric treatment. For example, therapy for a child with a first occurrence of E coli pyelonephritis will be guided by local rates of susceptibility, but past susceptibility information should guide empiric therapy in the same child experiencing a recurrence. It is also important to assess the need to achieve a certain level of success in selecting empiric therapy antibacterial coverage. For the child with mild impetigo, perhaps using drugs that provide 70% coverage of the suspected pathogens is acceptable, and the clinician can follow the treatment progress to see if changes need to be made. On the other hand, for the child who has leukemia and is neutropenic, with bacterial meningitis associated with gram-negative bacilli on stains of cerebrospinal fluid, we strive to start empiric therapy with antibiotic(s) as close to covering 100% of suspected pathogens as we can get, quickly reevaluating therapy (see the next section in this chapter). Clinicians should assess their willingness to accept some degree of treatment failure for any given infection, acknowledging that 100% coverage is not required for less severe infections.

Reevaluation of Therapy

Empiric therapy is just that, and it should change once additional information is available. In most cases, this means stopping therapy if infection is no longer suspected (eg, if cultures are sterile after 36–48 hours; if molecular tests for pathogens show no significant pathogen signal) or narrowing therapy if an organism is identified (eg, narrowing from ceftriaxone to ampicillin for susceptible *E coli* recovered from urine). However, therapy should also be reevaluated and possibly broadened if the clinical situation dictates (eg, if a child's condition becomes clinically unstable; if new physical examination findings or radiographic changes are seen; if a culture yields an organism that is unlikely to be covered by the empiric antimicrobials).

Treatment Only of Infections

Antibiotics are powerful tools, but they treat *only* fever and other local and systemic signs and symptoms of infection if those are caused by bacteria, fungi, or mycobacteria. If a stable patient has fever and a careful, systematic evaluation and diagnostic workup have not identified a treatable organism, it is reasonable in many cases to continue to

evaluate that patient without prolonged antibiotic therapy. Many noninfectious diseases can develop with signs and symptoms that are consistent with infection, including numerous rheumatologic and oncologic conditions. Anchoring to a diagnosis of infection in the absence of evidence for infection may not only drive unnecessary antibiotic use but also delay time to diagnosis of another significant health condition. Similarly, clinicians should strive to avoid treating organisms that are colonizing commensals or contaminants. For example, prolonged vancomycin therapy for a Corynebacterium species recovered from blood culture after 58 hours of incubation is not an appropriate use of antibiotics. Culture from non-sterile sites is particularly challenging to interpret in this context, and those cultures should be obtained only when the likelihood of infection at those sites is high. Often, tests for inflammation are elevated when true, invasive infection is present. A normal CRP level after 3 to 4 days of high fever suggests a diagnosis other than bacterial infection, particularly when supported by negative culture and negative molecular test results. Next-generation sequencing tests do not require prior knowledge of a specific pathogen to make a diagnosis; they assess the presence of nucleic acid sequences from any of a thousand pathogens in a gene library.

Optimization of Administration

The dose, route, and frequency of antibiotics can be manipulated to optimize their pharmacodynamics and efficacy and minimize toxicity. Close collaboration with pharmacology is critical to ensure that dosing is optimal. Examples of strategies include continuous infusion of beta-lactam antibiotics to maximize time above minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) for a resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection in a child with cystic fibrosis, vancomycin clearance calculations to ensure adequate area under the serum concentration-versus-time curve to MIC ratio for a complex MRSA infection, or therapeutic drug monitoring to minimize toxicity of aminoglycosides or voriconazole. Dosing strategies can be protocolized, but such strategies should be reviewed periodically, as approaches designed to optimize pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics are constantly evolving.

Accountability

Effective antibiotic stewardship cannot be accomplished in a vacuum. Effective stewardship programs require multidisciplinary buy-in and support as well as effective and continuous closed-loop communication. At a minimum, these teams usually consist of pharmacists, physicians including infectious disease (ID) specialists, designated clinicians for representative service lines (eg, a "unit champion"), nurses and nursing leadership, and hospital administrators. Clinical microbiologists, infection control and prevention specialists, information technology specialists, and hospital epidemiologists are key resources even if they do not participate directly in stewardship activities. Antibiotic stewardship programs have myriad tools available (Table 17-2), including prospective audit and feedback, prior authorization, clinical practice guidelines, electronic decision support, antibiotic time-outs, electronic hard stops, and intravenous-to-oral conversion. Use of some or all of these interventions must be coupled to education and reporting to staff to demonstrate the utility of the program.

TABLE 17-2. ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP INTERVENTIONS				
Intervention	Description	Advantages and Disadvantages		
Prospective audit and feedback	Antibiotic use is monitored prospectively, and information about use is shared with clinicians via continuous or intermittent reports. Specific areas of antibiotic misuse and overuse are targeted for education and feedback.	Staple of stewardship Can be time-consuming if not automated Should be combined with education to maximize effect		
Prior authorization	Specific antibiotics are restricted without prior approval of ID team or stewardship team.	Extremely effective in curtailing specific antibiotic usage but extremely unpopular; clinicians may develop work-arounds to circumvent restrictions.		
Clinical practice guidelines	Antibiotic use for a given clinical scenario is built into a protocol or guideline.	Can reduce time to effective therapy, but may not allow flexibility if certain aspects of case are different from usual (eg, if patient has a history of ESBL-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> infection but gets ceftriaxone because of UTI guideline)		
Electronic decision support	Language built into electronic medical records to recognize specific conditions (eg, suspected sepsis) and trigger decision support	Can increase awareness of specific conditions, but may contribute to "alert fatigue"		
Antibiotic time-outs	Scheduled reevaluation of empiric therapy at a set time point, usually 48 or 72 h after initiation	Important role in ensuring that empiric therapy is reevaluated as new information comes in. Timing may differ based on clinical scenario.		
Electronic hard stops	More automated time-out in which antibiotic therapy is automatically discontinued at a set time point	Very effective in limiting empiric therapy, but must be implemented and monitored carefully to ensure antibiotic therapy is not inadvertently discontinued without notice		
IV-to-PO conversion	Periodic or automated review by stewardship team to determine if antibiotics can be changed to PO administration	Particularly useful at hospital discharge to avoid unnecessary outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy. John Nelson first documented success almost 50 years ago for osteomyelitis.		

Abbreviations: ESBL, extended-spectrum beta-lactamase; ID, infectious disease; IV, intravenous; PO, oral; UTI, urinary tract infection.

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Historically, many of us opposed antibiotic stewardship programs that reported outcomes only in reduced antibiotic costs and volume and did not consider the adverse effects of the inappropriate use of inexpensive narrow-spectrum antibiotics for serious infection (eg. empiric ampicillin treatment of severe pyelonephritis). However, clinicians are generally more concerned with the outcome of their patients than they are on abstract purchasing data. As a result, stewardship programs have moved toward reporting more patientcentered outcomes, including adverse drug reactions, antibiotic resistance rates, length of stay, and failure of initial therapy. Clinicians are also more inclined to participate in and adhere to stewardship program interventions if they have a seat at the table and can contribute to shared decision-making. This is the role of the unit champion. For example, neonatologists, pulmonologists, and ambulatory pediatricians might each designate a faculty member to attend the monthly stewardship meeting to ensure that their perspectives are considered. Finally, pediatricians should consider including parents or family members in shared decision-making about antibiotic use.

In conclusion, antibiotics are critically important for treatment of infections. However, overuse or misuse of antibiotics will drive antimicrobial resistance and adverse patient outcomes. We have learned that there is no "new antibiotic" against which bacteria do not develop resistance. It is the role of the antibiotic steward to maximize the benefit of antibiotics, minimize their toxicity, and preserve their use for subsequent children. There are many resources available to achieve these goals—for example, antibiotic stewardship programs, pharmacists, ID physicians, and prescribing guides such as *Nelson's Pediatric* Antimicrobial Therapy, However, at the end of the day, every health care worker who cares for children is also charged with being a steward of antibiotics—to optimize their use for the patient at hand, while safeguarding their efficacy for all the children yet to come.

18. Systemic and Topical Antimicrobial Dosing and Dose Forms

NOTES

- Higher dosages in a dose range are generally indicated for more serious infections. For
 pathogens with higher minimal inhibitory concentrations against beta-lactam antibiotics, a more prolonged infusion of the antibiotic will allow increased antibacterial effect
 (see Chapter 11).
- Maximum dosages for adult-sized children (≥40 kg) are based on US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved product labeling or postmarketing data.
- See also Chapter 7 for HIV and SARS-CoV-2 antiviral agents not listed in this chapter.
- · Antiviral monoclonal antibodies and immunomodulators are not listed.
- Dose Levels of Evidence:
 - Level I: FDA-approved pediatric dosing or based on randomized clinical trials Level II: data from noncomparative trials or small comparative trials
 - Level III: expert or consensus opinion or case reports
- If no oral liquid form is available, round the child's dose to a combination of available solid dosage forms. Consult a pediatric pharmacist for recommendations on the availability of extemporaneously compounded liquid formulations.
- Cost estimates are in US dollars per course, or per month for maintenance regimens. Estimates are based on wholesale acquisition costs at the editor's institution. These may differ from those of the reader. Legend: \$ = <\$100, \$\$ = \$100-\$400, \$\$\$ = \$401-\$1,000, \$\$\$\$ = >\$1,000, \$\$\$\$
- There are some agents that we do not recommend even though they may be available. We believe they are significantly inferior to those we do recommend in chapters 1 through 12 and could possibly lead to poor outcomes if used. Such agents are not listed.
- Abbreviations: AOM, acute otitis media; ARC, augmented renal clearance; AUC:MIC, area under the curve (the mathematically calculated area under the serum concentration-versus-time curve) to minimum inhibitory concentration; bid, twice daily; BSA, body surface area; CABP, community-acquired bacterial pneumonia; CA-MRSA, community-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus; cap, capsule or caplet; CF, cystic fibrosis; CMV, cytomegalovirus; CNS, central nervous system; CrCl, creatinine clearance; div, divided; DOT, directly observed therapy; DR, delayed-release; EC, enteric-coated; ER, extended release; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; GI, gastrointestinal; hs, bedtime; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HSV, herpes simplex virus; IBS-d, irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhea; IM, intramuscular; INH, isoniazid; IV, intravenous; IVesic, intravesical; IVPB, intravenous piggyback (premixed bag); LD, loading dose; MAC, Mycobacterium avium complex; max, maximum;

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MDR, multidrug-resistant; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; MRSA, methicillin-resistant *S aureus*; NS, normal saline (physiologic saline solution); oint, ointment; OPC, oropharyngeal candidiasis; ophth, ophthalmic; PEG, pegylated; PIP, piperacillin; PJP, *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia; PMA, postmenstrual age; PO, oral; pwd, powder; q, every; qd, once daily; qhs, every bedtime; qid, 4 times daily; RSV, respiratory syncytial virus; RTI, respiratory tract infection; SIADH, syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone; SMX, sulfamethoxazole; soln, solution; SPAG-2, small particle aerosol generator model-2; SQ, subcutaneous; SSSI, skin and skin structure infection; STI, sexually transmitted infection; susp, suspension; tab, tablet; TB, tuberculosis; TBW, total body weight; tid, 3 times daily; TMP, trimethoprim; top, topical; UTI, urinary tract infection; vag, vaginal; VZV, varicella-zoster virus; WHO, World Health Organization.

A. SYSTEMIC ANTIMICROBIALS WITH DOSAGE FORMS AND USUAL DOSAGES				
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Acyclovir, ^a Zovirax (See also Valacyclovir later in	500-, 1,000-mg vials (\$)	IV	15–45 mg/kg/day (I) (See chapters 2 and 7.) Max 1,500 mg/m²/day (II) (See Chapter 13.)	q8h
this table.)	200-mg/5-mL susp (\$-\$\$) 200-mg cap (\$) 400-, 800-mg tab (\$)	PO	900 mg/m²/day (I) 60–80 mg/kg/day, max 3,200 mg/day (I) Adult max 4 g/day for VZV (I) (See chapters 2 and 7.)	q8h q6–8h
Albendazole,ª Albenza	200-mg tab (\$-\$\$\$)	PO	15 mg/kg/day for cysticercosis or echinococcosis (I) (See Chapter 9 for other indications.)	q12h
Amikacin, ^a Amikin	500-mg/2-mL, 1,000-mg/4-mL vials (\$)	IV, IM	15–22.5 mg/kg/day ^b (I) (See Chapter 4.) 30–35 mg/kg/day ^b for CF (II)	q8–24h q24h
		IVesic	50–100 mL of 0.5 mg/mL in NS (III)	q12h
Amoxicillin, ^a Amoxil	125-, 200-, 250-, 400-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 125-, 250-mg chew tab (\$) 250-, 500-mg cap (\$) 500-, 875-mg tab (\$)	PO	Standard dose: 40–45 mg/kg/day (I) High dose: 80–90 mg/kg/day (I) 150 mg/kg/day for penicillin-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae otitis media (III) Max 4,000 mg/day (III)	q8–12h q12h q8h

A. SYSTEMIC ANTIMIC	ROBIALS WITH DOSAGE FO	RMS AND U	JSUAL DOSAGES (continued)	
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Amoxicillin/clavulanate, ^a Augmentin	16:1 Augmentin XR: 1,000/62.5-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	16:1 formulation: ≥40 kg and adults, 4,000-mg amoxicillin/day (not per kg) (I)	q12h
	14:1 Augmentin ES: 600/42.9-mg/5-mL susp (\$)	РО	14:1 formulation: 90-mg amoxicillin/kg/day (I), max 4,000 mg amoxicillin/day (III)	q12h
	7:1 Augmentin (\$): 875/125-mg tab 200/28.5-, 400/57-mg chew tab 200/28.5-, 400/57-mg/5-mL susp	PO	7:1 formulation: 25- or 45-mg amoxicillin/kg/day, max 1,750 mg amoxicillin/day (I)	q12h
	4:1 Augmentin: 500/125-mg tab (\$) 250/62.5-mg/5-mL susp (\$)	PO	4:1 formulation: 20- or 40-mg amoxicillin/kg/day, max 1,500 mg amoxicillin/day (l)	q8h
	2:1 Augmentin: 250/125-mg tab (\$)	РО	2:1 formulation: ≥40 kg: 750-mg amoxicillin/day (not per kg) (I)	q8h
Amphotericin B deoxycholate, ^a	50-mg vial (\$-\$\$)	IV	1–1.5 mg/kg (I), max 150 mg (II) 0.5 mg/kg for <i>Candida</i> esophagitis or cystitis (II)	q24h
Fungizone		IVesic	50–100 mcg/mL in sterile water \times 50–100 mL (III)	q8h
Amphotericin B, lipid complex, Abelcet	100-mg/20-mL vial (\$\$\$)	IV	5 mg/kg (I), max 10 mg/kg or 500 mg (II)	q24h
Amphotericin B, liposomal, AmBisome	50-mg vial (\$\$\$)	IV	5 mg/kg (I), max 10 mg/kg or 500 mg (II)	q24h
Ampicillin sodium ^a	125-, 250-, 500-mg vial (\$) 1-, 2-, 10-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	50–200 mg/kg/day, max 8 g/day (I) 300–400 mg/kg/day, max 12 g/day endocarditis/ meningitis (III)	q6h q4–6h

Ampicillin trihydrate ^a	500-mg cap (\$)	РО	50–100 mg/kg/day if <20 kg (l) ≥20 kg and adults: 1–2 g/day (l)	q6h
Ampicillin/sulbactam, ^a Unasyn	1/0.5-, 2/1-, 10/5-g vial (\$–\$\$)	IV, IM	200-mg ampicillin/kg/day (I) ≥40 kg and adults: 4–max 8 g/day (I)	q6h
Anidulafungin, Eraxis	100-mg vial (\$\$–\$\$\$)	IV	3 mg/kg LD, then 1.5 mg/kg (I) Max 200-mg LD, then 100 mg (I)	q24h
Artemether and lumefantrine, Coartem	20/120-mg tab (\$-\$\$)	PO	5-<15 kg: 1 tab/dose (I) ≥15-<25 kg: 2 tabs/dose (I) ≥25-<35 kg: 3 tabs/dose (I) ≥35 kg: 4 tabs/dose (I)	6 doses over 3 days at 0, 8, 24, 36, 48, 60 h
Artesunate	110-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	2.4 mg/kg (I) See Malaria in Chapter 9, Table 9B.	$q12h \times 3$, then $q24h$
Atovaquone, ^a Mepron	750-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$–\$\$\$)	PO	30 mg/kg/day if 1–3 mo or >24 mo (l) 45 mg/kg/day if >3–24 mo (l) Max 1,500 mg/day (l)	q12h q24h for prophylaxis
Atovaquone and proguanil, a Malarone	62.5/25-mg pediatric tab (\$-\$\$) 250/100-mg adult tab (\$-\$\$)	PO	Prophylaxis for malaria: 11–20 kg: 1 pediatric tab, 21–30 kg: 2 pediatric tabs, 31–40 kg: 3 pediatric tabs, y-40 kg: 1 adult tab (I) Treatment: 5–8 kg: 2 pediatric tabs, 9–10 kg: 3 pediatric tabs, 11–20 kg: 1 adult tab, 21–30 kg: 2 adult tabs, 31–40 kg: 3 adult tabs, >40 kg: 4 adult tabs (I)	q24h

A. SYSTEMIC ANTIMIC	CROBIALS WITH DOSAGE FO	RMS AND U	JSUAL DOSAGES (continued)	
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Azithromycin, ^a Zithromax	250-, 500-, 600-mg tab (\$) 100-, 200-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 1-g packet for susp (\$)	PO	Otitis: 10 mg/kg/day for 1 day, then 5 mg/kg for 4 days; or 10 mg/kg/day for 3 days; or 30 mg/kg once (I). Pharyngitis: 12 mg/kg/day for 5 days, max 2,500-mg total dose (I). Sinusitis: 10 mg/kg/day for 3 days, max 1.5-g total dose (I). CABP: 10 mg/kg for 1 day, then 5 mg/kg/day for 4 days (max 1.5-g total dose), or 60 mg/kg once of ER (Zmax) susp, max 2 g (I). MAC prophylaxis: 20 mg/kg, max 1.2 g weekly (III). Adult dosing for RTI: 500 mg day 1, then 250 mg daily for 4 days or 500 mg for 3 days. Adult and adolescent dosing for STI: nongonorrhea: 1 g once. Gonorrhea: 2 g once. (See other indications in chapters 1, 3, and 9.)	q24h
	500-mg vial (\$)	IV	10 mg/kg, max 500 mg (II)	q24h
Aztreonam, ^a Azactam	1-, 2-g vial (\$\$-\$\$\$)	IV, IM	90-120 mg/kg/day, max 8 g/day (I)	q6-8h
Baloxavir, Xofluza	40-, 80-mg tab (\$\$) 40-mg/20-mL susp (\$\$)	РО	≥5 y (l) <20 kg: 2 mg/kg 20–79 kg: 40 mg per dose ≥80 kg: 80 mg per dose	Once
Bedaquiline, Sirturo	20-mg dispersible tab, 100-mg tab Available from Metro Medical specialty distributor 855/691-0963	PO	≥5 y + ≥15 kg: 200 mg (not per kg), then 100 mg (I) ≥30 kg + adults: 400 mg, then 200 mg (I); in combination with other agents for MDR TB (See Chapter 1, Table 1F.)	q24h for 2 wk, then the lower dose 3 times/wk

Benznidazole	12.5-, 100-mg tab Contact 877/303-7181.	РО	2–12 y: 5–8 mg/kg/day (I) (See also Trypanosomiasis in Chapter 9.)	q12h
Bezlotoxumab, Zinplava	1-g vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults: 10 mg/kg (I) ^c	One time
Capreomycin, Capastat	1-g vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV, IM	15–30 mg/kg (III), max 1 g (I)	q24h
Caspofungin, ^a Cancidas	50-, 70-mg vial (\$\$)	IV	Load with 70 mg/m 2 once, then 50 mg/m 2 , max 70 mg (I).	q24h
Cefaclor, ^a Ceclor	250-, 500-mg cap (\$) 500-mg ER tab (\$)	PO	20–40 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/day (I)	q12h
Cefadroxil, ^a Duricef	250-, 500-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 500-mg cap (\$) 1-g tab (\$)	PO	30 mg/kg/day, max 2 g/day (l)	q12–24h
Cefazolin, ^a Ancef	0.5-, 1-, 10-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	25–100 mg/kg/day (l)	q8h
			100–150 mg/kg/day for serious infections (III), max 12 g/day	q6h
Cefdinir, ^a Omnicef	125-, 250-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 300-mg cap (\$)	РО	14 mg/kg/day, max 600 mg/day (I)	q12–24h
Cefepime, ^a Maxipime	1-, 2-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	100 mg/kg/day, max 4 g/day (I)	q12h
			150 mg/kg/day empiric therapy for fever with neutropenia, max 6 g/day (I)	q8h
Cefiderocol, Fetroja	1-g vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults 2 g/day (I) ^c	q8h
Cefixime, ^a Suprax	100-, 200-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$)	РО	8 mg/kg/day, max 400 mg/day (I)	q24h
	400-mg cap (\$\$)		For convalescent PO therapy for serious infections, up to 20 mg/kg/day (III)	q12h
Cefotaxime, ^a Claforan	0.5-, 1-, 2-, 10-g vial Not currently manufactured in the United States	IV, IM	150–180 mg/kg/day, max 8 g/day (I) 200–225 mg/kg/day for meningitis, max 12 g/day (I)	q8h q6h

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Cefotetan, ^a Cefotan	1-, 2-g vial (\$) 1-, 2-g/50-mL IVPB (\$\$)	IV, IM	60–100 mg/kg/day (II), max 6 g/day (I)	q12h
Cefoxitin, ^a Mefoxin	1-, 2-, 10-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	80–160 mg/kg/day, max 12 g/day (I)	q6-8h
Cefpodoxime, ^a Vantin	100-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 100-, 200-mg tab (\$)	PO	10 mg/kg/day, max 400 mg/day (l)	q12h
Cefprozil,ª Cefzil	125-, 250-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 250-, 500-mg tab (\$)	PO	15–30 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/d (I)	q12h
Ceftaroline, Teflaro	400-, 600-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	0-<2 mo: 18 mg/kg/day (I) ≥2 mo-<2 y: 24 mg/kg/day (I) ≥2 y: 36 mg/kg/day (I) >33 kg: 1.2 g/day (I) Adults: 1.2 g/day (I) 45-60 mg/kg/day, max 3 g/day ± prolonged infusion for CF (II)	q8h q8h q8h q12h q12h q8h
Ceftazidime ^a ; Tazicef, Fortaz	0.5-, 1-, 2-, 6-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	90–150 mg/kg/day, max 6 g/day (l), max 8 g/day div q6h in children with obesity (ll)	q8h
		IV	200–300 mg/kg/day for serious <i>Pseudomonas</i> infection, max 12 g/day (II)	q8h
Ceftazidime/avibactam, Avycaz	2-g/0.5-g vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	3–5 mo: 120 mg ceftazidime/kg/day (I) ≥6 mo: 150 mg ceftazidime/kg/day, max 6 g (not per kg)/day (I)	q8h infuse over 2 h
Ceftolozane/tazobactam, Zerbaxa	1.5-g (1-g/0.5-g) vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults: 4.5 g (3 g/1.5 g)/day (I) <12 y: 60/30 mg/kg/day (II) ^c	q8h

Ceftriaxone, ^a Rocephin	0.25-, 0.5-, 1-, 2-, 10-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	50–75 mg/kg/day, max 2 g/day (I) Meningitis: 100 mg/kg/day, max 4 g/day (I) AOM: 50 mg/kg, max 1 g, 1–3 doses (II)	q24h q12h q24h
Cefuroxime, ^a Ceftin	250-, 500-mg tab (\$)	PO	20–30 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/day (I) For bone and joint infections, up to 100 mg/kg/ day, max 3 g/day (III)	q12h q8h
Cefuroxime, ^a Zinacef	0.75-, 1.5-g vial (\$)	IV, IM	100–150 mg/kg/day, max 6 g/day (I)	q8h
Cephalexin, ^a Keflex	125-, 250-mg/5-mL susp (\$)	РО	25–50 mg/kg/day (I)	q12h
	250-, 500-mg cap, tab (\$) 750-mg cap (\$-\$\$)		75–100 mg/kg/day for bone and joint, or severe, infections (II); max 4 g/day (I)	q6-8h
Chloroquine phosphate, ^a Aralen	250-, 500-mg (150-, 300-mg base) tabs (\$–\$\$)	РО	See Malaria in Chapter 9, Table 9B.	_
Cidofovir, ^a Vistide	375-mg vial (\$\$\$)	IV	5 mg/kg (III) (See Adenovirus in Chapter 7, Table 7C.)	Weekly
Ciprofloxacin, ^a Cipro	250-, 500-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$) 250-, 500-, 750-mg tab (\$)	РО	20–40 mg/kg/day, max 1.5 g/day (I). Do not administer susp via feeding tubes.	q12h
	100-mg tab (\$)	РО	Adult women with uncomplicated acute cystitis: 200 mg/day for 3 days (I)	_
	200-mg/100-mL, 400-mg/ 200-mL IVPB (\$)	IV	20–30 mg/kg/day, max 1.2 g/day (l)	q12h
Clarithromycin, ^a Biaxin	125-, 250-mg/5-mL susp (\$-\$\$) 250-, 500-mg tab (\$)	РО	15 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/day (l)	q12h
Clarithromycin ER, ^a Biaxin XL	500-mg ER tab (\$)	РО	Adults 1 g (l)	q24h

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Clindamycin, ^a Cleocin	75-mg/5-mL soln (\$) 75-, 150-, 300-mg cap (\$)	PO	10–25 mg/kg/day, max 1.8 g/day (l) 30–40 mg/kg/day for CA-MRSA, intra-abdominal infection, or AOM (III)	q8h
	150-mg/mL vial in 2-, 4-, 6-, and 60-mL sizes (\$) 0.3-, 0.6-, 0.9-g/50-mL IVPB (\$)	IV, IM	20–40 mg/kg/day, max 2.7 g/day (l)	q8h
Clotrimazole, ^a Mycelex	10-mg lozenge (\$)	РО	≥3 y: dissolve lozenge in mouth (I).	5 times daily
Colistimethate, ^a Coly- Mycin M	150-mg (colistin base) vial (\$). 1-mg base = 2.7-mg colistimethate = 30,000 IU.	IV, IM	2.5- to 5-mg base/kg/day (I) Max 360 mg/day ^b (III)	q8h
Cycloserine, Seromycin	250-mg cap (\$\$\$\$)	РО	10–20 mg/kg/day (III) Adults max 1 g/day (I)	q12h
Dalbavancin, Dalvance	500-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Birth-<6 y: 22.5 mg/kg (I) 6-<18 y: 18 mg/kg, max 1,500 mg (I) Adults: 1,500 mg (I)	One time
Dapsone ^a	25-, 100-mg tab (\$)	РО	2 mg/kg, max 100 mg (l)	q24h
			4 mg/kg, max 200 mg (l)	Once weekly
Daptomycin, ^a Cubicin	350-, 500-mg vial (\$\$)	IV	For SSSI (l): 1–2 y: 10 mg/kg, 2–6 y: 9 mg/kg, 7–11 y: 7 mg/kg, 12–17 y: 5 mg/kg. For Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia (l): 1–6 y: 12 mg/kg, 7–11 y: 9 mg/kg, 12–17 y: 7 mg/kg. For other indications, see Chapter 1. Adults: 4–6 mg/kg TBW (l).	q24h

Delafloxacin, Baxdela	450-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	РО	Adults 450 mg (I)	q12h
	300-mg vial (\$\$\$)	IV	Adults 300 mg (I)	q12h
Demeclocycline, ^a Declomycin	150-, 300-mg tab (\$)	PO	≥8 y: 7–13 mg/kg/day, max 600 mg/day (I). Dosage differs for SIADH.	q6–12h
Dicloxacillin, ^a Dynapen	250-, 500-mg cap (\$)	PO	12–25 mg/kg/day (adults 0.5–1 g/day) (I) For bone and joint infections, up to 100 mg/kg/ day, max 2 g/day (III)	q6h
Doxycycline, Vibramycin	25-mg/5-mL susp ^a (\$) 50-mg/5-mL syrup (\$\$) 20-, 40-, 50-, 75-, 100-, 150-mg tab/cap ^a (\$–\$\$) 200-mg tab ^a (\$\$\$)	PO	4.4 mg/kg/day LD day 1, then 2.2–4.4 mg/kg/day, max 200 mg/day (I)	q12–24h
	100-mg vial ^a (\$\$)	IV	_	
Elbasvir/grazoprevir, Zepatier	50-mg/100-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	РО	Aged ≥12 y or weighing ≥30 kg: 1 tab (I)	q24h
Entecavir, Baraclude (See Hepatitis B virus in Chapter 7.)	0.05-mg/mL soln (\$\$\$) 0.5-, 1-mg tab ^a (\$)	PO	2-<16 y (I) (double the following doses if previous lamivudine exposure): 10-11 kg: 0.15 mg >11-14 kg: 0.2 mg >14-17 kg: 0.25 mg >17-20 kg: 0.3 mg >20-23 kg: 0.35 mg >23-26 kg: 0.4 mg >26-30 kg: 0.45 mg >30 kg: 0.5 mg ≥16 y: 0.5 mg (I)	q24h
Eravacycline, Xerava	50-mg vial (\$\$\$)	IV	≥18 y: 1 mg/kg	q12h

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interva
Ertapenem, ^a Invanz	1-g vial (\$\$)	IV, IM	30 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/day (I) ≥13 y and adults: 1 g/day (I)	q12h q24h
Erythromycin base ^a	250-, 500-mg tab (\$-\$\$) 250-mg DR cap (\$) 250-, 333-, 500-mg DR tab (Ery- Tab) (\$\$)	РО	50 mg/kg/day, max 4 g/day (I). Dose differs for GI prokinesis.	q6-8h
Erythromycin ethylsuccinate ^a ; EES, EryPed	200-, 400-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$–\$\$\$) 400-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	50 mg/kg/day, max 4 g/day (I). Dose differs for GI prokinesis.	q6-8h
Erythromycin lactobionate, Erythrocin	0.5-g vial (\$\$-\$\$\$)	IV	20 mg/kg/day, max 4 g/day (I)	q6h
Ethambutol, ^a Myambutol	100-, 400-mg tab (\$)	РО	15–25 mg/kg, max 2.5 g (l)	q24h
Ethionamide, Trecator	250-mg tab (\$\$)	РО	15–20 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/day (I)	q12–24h
Famciclovir, ^a Famvir	125-, 250-, 500-mg tab (\$)	PO	Adults 0.5–2 g/day (I)	q8–12h
Fexinidazole	600-mg tab available from WHO. Contact by email: neglected. diseases@who.int	PO	See Trypanosomiasis in Chapter 9.	q24h
Fidaxomicin, Dificid	200-mg tab (\$\$\$\$) 200-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$\$\$)	PO	≥6 mo (I) (per dose, not per kg): 4-<7 kg: 80 mg 7-<9 kg: 120 mg 9-<12.5 kg: 160 mg ≥12.5 kg: 200 mg Adults: 200 mg (I)	q12h

Fluconazole, a Diflucan	50-, 100-, 150-, 200-mg tab (\$) 50-, 200-mg/5-mL susp (\$)	РО	6–12 mg/kg, max 800 mg (I). 800–1,000 mg/day may be used for some CNS	q24h
	100-mg/50-mL, 200-mg/100-mL, 400-mg/200-mL IVPB (\$)	IV	fungal infections (see Chapter 5).	
Flucytosine, ^a Ancobon	250-, 500-mg cap (\$\$\$\$)	PO	100 mg/kg/day (I) ^b	q6h
Foscarnet, Foscavir	6-g/250-mL vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	CMV/VZV: 180 mg/kg/day (I)	q8–12h
			CMV suppression: 90–120 mg/kg (I)	q24h
			HSV: 120 mg/kg/day (I)	q8–12h
Fosfomycin, Contepo	6-g vial (not yet commercially available)	IV	Adults: 18 g/day (I) ^c	q8h
Fosfomycin, Monurol	3-g PO granules (\$)	РО	Adult women with uncomplicated acute cystitis: 3 g (I)	Once
Ganciclovir, ^a Cytovene	500-mg vial (\$\$)	IV	CMV treatment: Non-neonate: 10 mg/kg/day (I). Neonate: See Chapter 2.	q12h
			CMV suppression: 5 mg/kg (I)	q24h
			VZV: 10 mg/kg/day (III)	q12h
Gentamicin ^a	10-mg/mL vial (\$) 40-mg/mL vial (\$)	IV, IM	3–7.5 mg/kg/day (I), CF and oncology 7–10 mg/kg/day (II) ^b (See Chapter 4 for q24h dosing.)	q8–24h
		IVesic	0.5 mg/mL in NS × 50–100 mL (III)	q12h

Generic and Trade	Dosage Form			
Names	(cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, Mavyret Doses given in glecaprevir	50-mg/20-mg pellet packet 100-mg/40-mg tab (\$\$\$\$\$)	PO	≥12 y or ≥45 kg: glecaprevir 300 mg with pibrentasvir 120 mg qd 3–11 y: <20 kg: glecaprevir 150 mg with pibrentasvir 60 mg qd 20–<30 kg: glecaprevir 200 mg with pibrentasvir 80 mg qd 30–<45 kg: glecaprevir 250 mg with pibrentasvir 100 mg qd (I)	q24h
Griseofulvin microsize, ^a Grifulvin V	125-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 500-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	20–25 mg/kg (II), max 1 g (I)	q24h
Griseofulvin ultramicrosize, ^a Gris-PEG	125-, 250-mg tab (\$\$)	РО	10–15 mg/kg (II), max 750 mg (I)	q24h
lbrexafungerp, Brexafemme	150-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	Post-menarchal females 300 mg/day (not per kg) (I)	q12h × 2 doses
lmipenem/cilastatin, ^a Primaxin	250/250-, 500/500-mg vial (\$)	IV, IM	60–100 mg/kg/day, max 4 g/day (I) IM form not approved for <12 y	q6h
lmipenem/cilastatin/ relebactam, Recarbrio	500/500/250-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults 2 g/day of imipenem (I) ^c	q6h
Interferon-PEG alfa-2a, Pegasys	All (\$\$\$\$) 180-mcg vials, prefilled	SQ	See Hepatitis B virus and Hepatitis C virus in Chapter 7.	Weekly
lsavuconazonium (isavuconazole),	186-mg cap (100-mg base) (\$\$\$\$)	РО	Adults: 200-mg base per <i>dose</i> PO/IV (I) ≥2 y and <13 y: 10-mg base/kg/dose, max 200	q8h × 6 doses, then
Cresemba Dosing in isavuconazole base	372-mg vial (200-mg base) (\$\$\$\$)	IV	mg (III) ^{b,c}	q24h

Isoniazid, ^a Nydrazid	50-mg/5-mL soln (\$\$)	PO	10-15 mg/kg/day, max 300 mg/day (I)	q12-24h
	100-, 300-mg tab (\$) 1,000-mg vial (\$\$)	IV, IM	With biweekly DOT, dosage is 20–30 mg/kg, max 900 mg/dose (I).	Twice weekly
			In combination with rifapentine (see Rifapentine later in this table): ≥12 y: 15 mg/kg rounded up to the nearest 50 or 100 mg; 900 mg max 2-<12 y: 25 mg/kg; 900 mg max	Once weekly
Itraconazole, ^a Sporanox 50-mg/5-mL soln (\$\$) (Preferre over caps; see Chapter 5.) 100-mg cap (\$)	50-mg/5-mL soln (\$\$) (Preferred	PO	10 mg/kg/day (II), max 200 mg/day ^b	q12h
		5 mg/kg/day for chronic mucocutaneous <i>Candida</i> (II)	q24h	
Itraconazole, Tolsura	65-mg cap (\$\$\$\$)	PO	Adults 130 mg (not per kg) (I)	q12h-q24h
Ivermectin, ^a Stromectol	3-mg tab (\$)	РО	0.15-0.2 mg/kg, no max (I)	1 dose
Ketoconazole, ^a Nizoral	200-mg tab (\$)	РО	≥2 y: 3.3–6.6 mg/kg, max 400 mg (I)	q24h
Lefamulin, Xenleta	150-mg vial (\$\$\$) 600-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	IV PO	Adults (l) ^c 300 mg/day 1,200 mg/day	q12h
Letermovir, Prevymis	240-, 480-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	РО	Adults 480 mg (I), 240 mg if concomitant	q24h
	240-, 480-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	cyclosporine therapy (I) (See Cytomegalovirus in Chapter 7.)	
Levofloxacin,ª Levaquin	125-mg/5-mL soln (\$) 250-, 500-, 750-mg tab (\$) 500-, 750-mg vial (\$) 250-mg/50-mL, 500-mg/100-mL, 750-mg/150-mL IVPB (\$)	PO, IV	For postexposure anthrax prophylaxis (I): <50 kg: 16 mg/kg/day, max 500 mg/day ≥50 kg: 500 mg For respiratory infections: <5 y: 20 mg/kg/day (II), ≥5 y: 10 mg/kg/day; max 500 mg/day (II), up to 1,000 mg/dose in children with obesity (III)	q12h q24h q12h q24h

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Linezolid, ^a Zyvox	100-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$\$) 600-mg tab (\$) 200-mg/100-mL, 600-mg/ 300-mL IVPB (\$\$)	PO, IV	Birth–11 y (l): 30 mg/kg/day 45 mg/kg/day for MIC 2 (ll) >11 y (l): 1.2 g/day	q8h q8h q12h
Maribavir, Livtencity	200-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	PO	≥12 y: 400 mg (not per kg) (l)	q12h
Mebendazole, Emverm	100-mg chew tab (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$)	РО	≥2 y: 100 mg (not per kg) (l) See parasitic nematodes and helminths (worms) and other indications in Chapter 9, Table 9B.	See Chapter 9.
Mefloquine, ^a Lariam	250-mg tab (\$)	РО	See Malaria in Chapter 9, Table 9B.	_
Meropenem, ^a Merrem	0.5-, 1-g vial (\$)	IV	60 mg/kg/day, max 3 g/day (I) 120 mg/kg/day meningitis (I) or pediatric intensive care unit sepsis with suspected ARC (II), max 6 g/day	q8h
Meropenem/vaborbactam, Vabomere	2-g vial (contains 1-g each meropenem + vaborbactam) (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults 6 g meropenem/day (I) ^c	q8h
Methenamine hippurate, ^a Hiprex	1-g tab (\$)	PO	6–12 y: 1–2 g/day (l) >12 y: 2 g/day (l)	q12h
Methenamine mandelate ^a	0.5-, 1-g tab (\$)	_	<6 y: 75 mg/kg/day (l) 6–12 y: 2 g/day (l) >12 y: 4 g/day (l)	q6h
Metronidazole, ^a Flagyl	250-, 500-mg tab (\$) 250-, 500-mg/5-mL susp compounding kit (\$) 375-mg cap (\$\$)	РО	30–50 mg/kg/day, max 2,250 mg/day (I)	q8h

	500-mg/100-mL IVPB (\$)	IV	22.5–40 mg/kg/day (II), max 4 g/day (I)	q6–8h
Micafungin, ^a Mycamine	50-, 100-mg vial (\$\$)	IV	Neonates: 10 mg/kg (II) (See Chapter 2.) 1-<4 mo (I): 4 mg/kg ≥4 mo (I): 2 mg/kg, max 100 mg (I) Esophageal candidiasis ≥4 mo (I): ≤30 kg: 3 mg/kg >30 kg: 2.5 mg/kg, max 150 mg/day Prophylaxis: 1 mg/kg q24h (I) or 3 mg q48h (II)	q24h
Miltefosine, Impavido	50-mg cap Available at www.impavido.com (accessed September 30, 2022)	PO	<12 y: 2.5 mg/kg/day (II) ≥12 y (I): 30–44 kg: 50 mg (not per kg) ≥45 kg: 50 mg (not per kg) (See Leishmaniasis and Amebic meningoencephalitis in Chapter 9, Table 9B.)	bid bid tid
Minocycline, Minocin	50-, 75-, 100-mg cap ^a (\$) 50-, 75-, 100-mg tab ^a (\$) 100-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	PO, IV	≥8 y: 4 mg/kg/day, max 200 mg/day (l)	q12h
Minocycline ER; Solodyn, ^a Ximino	45-, 55-, 65-, 80-, 90-, 105-, 115-, 135-mg ER tab ^a (\$–\$\$) 45-, 90-, 135-mg ER cap (\$\$\$)	РО	≥12 y: 1 mg/kg/day for acne (l). Round dose to nearest strength tab or cap.	q24h
Moxidectin	2-mg tab Available from Medicines Development for Global Health (info@ medicinesdevelopment.com)	PO	≥12 y: 8 mg (l) ^c	Once

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interva
Moxifloxacin, ^a Avelox	400-mg tab (\$) 400-mg/250-mL IVPB (\$\$)	PO, IV	Adults 400 mg/day (I)	q24h
			Studied in but not FDA approved for children (II) IV: 3 mo-<2 y: 12 mg/kg/day 2-<6 y: 10 mg/kg/day ≥6-<12 y: 8 mg/kg/day, max 400 mg/day ≥12-<18 y (weight <45 kg): 8 mg/kg/day	q12h
			≥12-<18 y (weight >45 kg) IV or PO: 400 mg	q24h
Nafcillin, ^a Nallpen	1-, 2-, 10-g vial (\$–\$\$)	IV, IM	150–200 mg/kg/day (II) Max 12 g/day div q4h (I)	q6h
Neomycin ^a	500-mg tab (\$)	РО	50–100 mg/kg/day (II), max 12 g/day (I)	q6-8h
Nifurtimox, Lampit	30-, 120-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	<40 kg: 10−20 mg/kg/day (l) ≥40 kg: 8−10 mg/kg/day (l)	q8h
Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir, Paxlovid		PO	≥12 y and ≥40 kg: 300 mg nirmatrelvir with 100 mg ritonavir	q12h
Nitazoxanide, Alinia	100-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$\$) 500-mg tab ^a (\$\$\$)	PO	1–3 y: 200 mg/day (l) 4–11 y: 400 mg/day (l) 12 y–adults: 1 g/day (l) (See Giardiasis in Chapter 9, Table 9B.)	q12h
Nitrofurantoin, ^a Furadantin	25-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$\$)	РО	5–7 mg/kg/day, max 400 mg/day (I)	q6h
			1–2 mg/kg for UTI prophylaxis (I)	q24h
Nitrofurantoin macrocrystals, ^a Macrodantin	25-, 50-, 100-mg cap (\$)	РО	Same as susp	_

Nitrofurantoin monohydrate and macrocrystalline, ^a Macrobid	100-mg cap (\$)	РО	>12 y: 200 mg/day (l)	q12h
Nystatin, ^a Mycostatin	500,000-U/5-mL susp (\$) 500,000-U tabs (\$)	РО	Infants 2 mL/dose, children 4–6 mL/dose; to coat PO mucosa (I) Tabs: 3–6 tabs/day	q6h
Obiltoxaximab, Anthim	600-mg/6-mL vial Available from the Strategic National Stockpile	IV	≤15 kg: 32 mg/kg (I) >15–40 kg: 24 mg/kg (I) >40 kg and adults: 16 mg/kg (I)	Once
Omadacycline, Nuzyra	150-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	РО	Adults: 450 mg qd for 2 days, then 300 mg (not per kg) (I)	q24h
	100-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults: 200 mg once, then 100 mg (not per kg) (l)	q24h
Oritavancin, Orbactiv	400-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults: 1.2 g/day (l) ^c	One time
Oseltamivir, ^a Tamiflu (See Influenza in chapters 2 and 7.)	30-mg/5-mL susp (\$) 30-, 45-, 75-mg cap (\$)	РО	Neonates (II) (See also Chapter 2.) Preterm <38 wk PMA: 2 mg/kg/day Preterm 38–40 wk PMA: 3 mg/kg/day Preterm >40 wk PMA, and full-term, birth−8 mo (I): 6 mg/kg/day 9−11 mo (II): 7 mg/kg/day ≥12 mo (I): (not per kg) ≤15 kg: 60 mg/day >15-23 kg: 90 mg/day >23-40 kg: 120 mg/day >40 kg: 150 mg/day (I)	q12h
			Prophylaxis: Give half the daily dose (I).	q24h
Oxacillin, ^a Bactocill	1-, 2-, 10-g vial (\$-\$\$)	IV, IM	100 mg/kg/day, max 12 g/day (I) 150–200 mg/kg/day for meningitis (III)	q4-6h

A. SYSTEMIC ANTIMICROBIALS WITH DOSAGE FORMS AND USUAL DOSAGES (continued) Generic and Trade **Dosage Form** Names (cost estimate) Route Dose (evidence level) Interval Palivizumab, Synagis 50-, 100-mg vial (\$\$\$\$) IM 15 mg/kg (I) Monthly (See Chapter 7 for indications.) during RSV season Penicillin G IM - Penicillin G benzathine. 600.000 U/mL in 1-, 2-, 4-mL IM Infants: 50.000 U/kg (I) 1 dose prefilled syringes (\$\$) Children <60 lb: 300.000-600.000 U. >60 lb: Bicillin L-A 900,000 U (not per kg) (I) (FDA approved in 1952 for dosing by pounds) Adults: 1.2-2.4 million U (I) (See also Syphilis in chapters 1 and 2.) - Penicillin G procaine 600,000 U/mL in 1-, 2-mL IM Infants: 50,000 U/kg (I) a24h (See also Syphilis in Chapter 2.) prefilled syringes (\$\$) Children (I): <60 lb: 300,000 U (not per kg) ≥60 lb or >12 y: 600,000 U Adults: 600,000-1,200,000 U (I) Penicillin G IV – Penicillin G K,^a Pfizerpen 5-, 20-million U vial (\$) IV, IM 100.000-300.000 U/kg/day (I) a4-6h Max daily dose 24 million U - Penicillin G sodiuma 5-million U vial (\$-\$\$) IV. IM 100,000-300,000 U/kg/day (I) q4-6h Max daily dose 24 million U Penicillin V PO - Penicillin V Ka 125-, 250-mg/5-mL soln (\$) PO 25-50 mg/kg/day, max 2 g/day (I) q6h 250-, 500-mg tab (\$)

Pentamidine; Pentam, Nebupent	300-mg vial ^a (\$\$\$)	IV, IM	4 mg/kg/day (l), max 300 mg	q24h
	300-mg vial (\$)	Inhaled	300 mg for prophylaxis (I)	Monthly
Peramivir, Rapivab	200-mg vial (\$\$\$) Available from Optime Care specialty pharmacy	IV	≥6 mo: 12 mg/kg, max 600 mg (l)	One time
Piperacillin/tazobactam, ^a Zosyn	2/0.25-, 3/0.375-, 4/0.5-, 12/1.5-, 36/4.5-g vial (\$)	IV	<40 kg: 240–300 mg PIP/kg/day, max 16 g PIP/ day (I) Adults 8–12 g/day	q8h
Plazomicin, Zemdri	500-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults 15 mg/kg (I)	q24h
Polymyxin B ^a	500,000-U vial (\$). 1 mg = 10,000 U.	IV	2.5 mg/kg/day (I) Adults 2 mg/kg LD, then 2.5–3 mg/kg/day, dose based on TBW, no max (II)	q12h

A. SYSTEMIC ANTIMICROBIALS WITH DOSAGE FORMS AND USUAL DOSAGES (continued)					
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval	
Posaconazole, ^b Noxafil	300-mg DR susp packet (\$\$\$\$)	PO	Candida or Aspergillus prophylaxis ≥2 y (I): (not per kg) 10-<12 kg: 90 mg 12-<17 kg: 120 mg 17-<21 kg: 150 mg 21-<26 kg: 180 mg 26-<36 kg: 210 mg 36-40 kg: 240 mg	q12h × 1 day, then q24h	
	200-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$\$\$)	PO	≥13 y (I): Candida or Aspergillus prophylaxis: 600 mg/day OPC treatment: 100 mg q12h for 1 day, then 100 mg/day Refractory OPC: 800 mg/day	q8h q24h q12h	
	100-mg DR tab ^a (\$\$-\$\$\$)	РО	Candida or Aspergillus prophylaxis ≥2 y (I): ≤40 kg IV: 6 mg/kg q12h for 1 day, then 6 mg/kg >40 kg IV or DR tab (I): 300 mg (not per kg) q12h for 1 day, then 300 mg	q24h	
	300-mg/16.7-mL vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV			
Praziquantel, ^a Biltricide	600-mg tab (\$\$)	РО	20–25 mg/kg/dose, no max (l). Round dose to nearest 200 mg (¹/₃ tab).	q4–6h for 3 doses	
Pretomanid	200-mg tab (\$\$)	РО	Adults: 200 mg (I) In combination with other agents for MDR TB	q24h	
Primaquine phosphate ^a	15-mg base tab (\$) (26.3-mg primaquine phosphate)	РО	0.5 mg (base)/kg, max 30 mg (III) (See Malaria in Chapter 9, Table 9B.)	q24h	
Pyrantel pamoate ^a	250-mg base/5-mL susp (\$) (720-mg pyrantel pamoate/5-mL)	PO	11 mg (base)/kg, max 1 g (l)	Once	

Pyrazinamide ^a	500-mg tab (\$)	PO	30 mg/kg/day, max 2 g/day (I)	g24h
i yrazinamide	500-ing tab (\$)	10		42411
			Biweekly DOT, 50 mg/kg (I), no max	Twice weekly
Quinupristin/dalfopristin, Synercid	150/350-mg vial (500-mg total) (\$\$\$\$)	IV	22.5 mg/kg/day (II) Adults 15–22.5 mg/kg/day, no max (I)	q8h q8–12h
Raxibacumab	1,700-mg/35-mL vial Available from the Strategic National Stockpile	IV	≤15 kg: 80 mg/kg (l) >15–50 kg: 60 mg/kg (l) >50 kg: 40 mg/kg (l)	Once
Remdesivir, Veklury	100-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Aged ≥28 days or weighing 3.0 kg through <40 kg: 5 mg/kg LD, then 2.5 mg/kg (I) ≥40 kg: 200 mg LD, then 100 mg (not per kg) (I)	q24h
Ribavirin, ^a Rebetol	200-mg cap/tab (\$)	PO	15 mg/kg/day (I) 12–17 y (not per kg) (I): 47–59 kg: 800 mg/day 60–73 kg: 1,000 mg/day 74–105 kg: 1,200 mg/day >105 kg: 1,400 mg/day Given as combination therapy with other agents (See Hepatitis C virus in Chapter 7.)	q12h
Ribavirin, a Virazole	6-g vial (\$\$\$\$\$)	Inhaled	1 vial by SPAG-2 (See Respiratory syncytial virus in Chapter 7, Table 7C.)	q24h
Rifabutin, ^a Mycobutin	150-mg cap (\$\$)	РО	5 mg/kg for MAC prophylaxis (II) 10–20 mg/kg for MAC or TB treatment (I) Max 300 mg/day	q24h

A. SYSTEMIC ANTIMICROBIALS WITH DOSAGE FORMS AND USUAL DOSAGES (continued)				
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Rifampin, ^a Rifadin	150-, 300-mg cap (\$) 600-mg vial (\$\$–\$\$\$)	PO, IV	15–20 mg/kg, max 600 mg for active TB (in combination) (I) or as single-drug therapy for latent TB	q24h
			With biweekly DOT, dosage is still 15–20 mg/kg/dose, max 600 mg.	Twice weekly
			20 mg/kg/day for 2 days for meningococcus prophylaxis, max 1.2 g/day (I)	q12h
Rifampin/INH/ pyrazinamide	75-/50-/150-mg dispersible tab available from the Stop TB Partnership global drug facility (www.stoptb.org/buyers; accessed September 30, 2022)	PO	4–7 kg: 1 tab 8–11 kg: 2 tab 12–15 kg: 3 tabs 16–24 kg: 4 tab	q24h
Rifamycin, Aemcolo	194-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	Adults: 2 tabs for travelers diarrhea (I)	q12h for 3 days
Rifapentine, Priftin	150-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	≥12 y and adults: 600 mg/dose (I)	Twice weekly
			>2 y, with INH for treatment of latent TB (l): 10–14 kg: 300 mg 14.1–25 kg: 450 mg 25.1–32 kg: 600 mg 32.1–50 kg: 750 mg >50 kg: 900 mg max	Once weekly
Rifaximin, Xifaxan	200-mg tab (\$) 550-mg tab (\$\$\$\$) used for adults with IBS-d	РО	20–30 mg/kg/day (II) ≥12 y and adults: 600 mg/day (I) for travelers diarrhea	q8h

Sarecycline, Seysara	60-, 100-, 150-mg tabs (\$\$\$)	PO	For acne (I): ≥9 y: 60 mg (not per kg) 55–84 kg: 100 mg >84 kg: 150 mg	q24h
Secnidazole, Solosec	2-g granules (\$\$)	РО	≥2 y: 30 mg/kg (III) ^c Adults: 2 g (I)	Once
Sofosbuvir, Sovaldi	150-, 200-mg pellet packet 200-, 400-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	PO	Children ≥3 y (I): <17 kg: 150 mg 17–<35 kg: 200 mg ≥35 kg: 400 mg ≥12 y: 400 mg (See Hepatitis C virus in Chapter 7.)	q24h
Sofosbuvir/ledipasvir, ^a Harvoni Doses given in sofosbuvir	150-/33.75-mg pellet packet 200-/45-mg pellet packet 200-/45-mg tab 400-/90-mg tab All forms (\$\$\$\$\$)	PO	Children ≥3 y (I): <17 kg: 37.5 mg ledipasvir with 150 mg sofosbuvir qd 17-<35 kg: 200 mg ≥35 kg: 400 mg (See Hepatitis C virus in Chapter 7.)	q24h
Sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, ^a Epclusa Doses given in sofosbuvir	150-/37.5-mg pellet packet 200-/50-mg pellet packet 200-/50-mg tab 400-/100-mg tab All forms (\$\$\$\$)	PO	Children ≥3 y (I): <17 kg: 150 mg 17-<30 kg: 200 mg ≥30 kg: 400 mg (See Hepatitis C virus in Chapter 7.)	q24h
Sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/ voxilaprevir, Vosevi	400-/100-/100-mg tab (\$\$\$\$\$)	РО	Adults 1 tab (I) (See Hepatitis C virus in Chapter 7.)	q24h
Streptomycin ^{a,b}	1-g vial (\$\$)	IM, IV	20–40 mg/kg/day, max 1 g/day (I)	q12–24h
Sulfadiazine ^a	500-mg tab (\$\$\$)	PO	120–150 mg/kg/day, max 4–6 g/day (I) (See Chapter 9.)	q6h
			Rheumatic fever secondary prophylaxis 500 mg qd if ≤27 kg, 1,000 mg qd if >27 kg (II)	q24h

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form (cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Tecovirimat, Tpoxx	Available from the FDA under expanded access protocol as an investigational new drug (www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/ Tecovirimat.html; reviewed September 15, 2022; accessed September 30, 2022) in 200-mg cap and IV formulations. Informed consent required through CDC Human Research Committee. Case report forms required. For assistance, call the CDC 770/488-7100.	PO, IV	For children <13 kg, IV tecovirimat is preferred to ensure that each dose is taken and tolerated. IV, each infusion given over 6h: <35 kg: 6 mg/kg q12h 35-<120 kg: 200 mg (not per kg) q12h ≥120 kg: 300 mg q12h PO: <6 kg: ¼ cap q12h 6-<13 kg: ½ cap q12h 13-<25 kg: 1 cap q12h 25-<40 kg: 2 caps q12h 40-<120 kg: 3 caps q12h ≥120 kg: 3 caps q8h	q12h (except for ≥120 kg)
Tedizolid, Sivextro	200-mg tab (\$\$\$\$) 200-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	PO, IV	≥12 y and adults: 200 mg (I) ^c	q24h
Telavancin, Vibativ	250-, 750-mg vial (\$\$\$\$)	IV	Adults: 10 mg/kg (I) ^c	q24h
Tenofovir alafenamide, Vemlidy	25-mg tab (\$\$\$\$)	РО	Adults: 25 mg (I)	q24h
Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, Viread	40 mg per scoop pwd for mixing with soft food (\$\$\$) 150-, 200-, 250-mg tab (\$\$\$\$) 300-mg tab ^a (\$)	PO	≥2 y, PO pwd: 8 mg/kg (rounded to nearest 20 mg [½ scoop]) (I) Tab (I): 17–<22 kg: 150 mg (not per kg) 22–<28 kg: 200 mg 28–<35 kg: 250 mg ≥35 kg: 300 mg (See Chapter 7 for HBV and HIV-HBV coinfection use.)	q24h

Terbinafine, a Lamisil	250-mg tab (\$)	РО	Adults 250 mg (I)	q24h
Tetracycline ^a	250-, 500-mg cap (\$)	PO	≥8 y: 25–50 mg/kg/day (I)	q6h
Tinidazole, ^a Tindamax	250-, 500-mg tab (\$)	РО	50 mg/kg, max 2 g (l) (See Giardiasis in Chapter 9, Table 9B.)	q24h
Tobramycin, ^a Nebcin	10-mg/mL vial (\$) 40-mg/mL vial (\$)	IV, IM	3–7.5 mg/kg/day (CF 7–10) ^b (See Chapter 4 regarding q24h dosing.)	q8-24h
Tobramycin inhalation ^a ; Tobi, Bethkis	300-mg ampule (\$\$\$\$)	Inhaled	≥6 y: 600 mg/day (I)	q12h
Tobi Podhaler	28-mg cap for inhalation (\$\$\$\$)	Inhaled	≥6 y: 224 mg/day via Podhaler device (I)	q12h
Triclabendazole, Egaten	250-mg scored tab available from the WHO fascioliasis partnership (fasciola@who.int)	PO	≥6 y (l): 20 mg/kg/day, given as 2 doses in 1 day (See Flukes in Chapter 9, Table 9B.)	q12h
Trimethoprim/SMX ^a ; Bactrim, Septra	80-mg TMP/400-mg SMX tab (single strength) (\$) 160-mg TMP/800-mg SMX tab (double strength) (\$)	PO, IV	8 mg TMP/kg/day (I) Adults 2 double-strength tabs/day (I) 12 mg TMP/kg/day for bacterial MIC 1, max 640 mg TMP/day (II)	q12h
	40-mg TMP/200-mg SMX per 5-mL PO susp (\$)		2 mg TMP/kg/day for UTI prophylaxis (I)	q24h
	16-mg TMP/80-mg SMX per mL injection soln in 5-, 10-, 30-mL		15–20 mg TMP/kg/day for PJP treatment (I), no max	q6-8h
	vial (\$\$)		150 mg TMP/m²/day, OR 5 mg TMP/kg/day for PJP prophylaxis (I), max 160 mg TMP/day	q12h 3 times, wk OR q24h
Valacyclovir, ^a Valtrex	500-mg, 1-g tab (\$) Recipe for preparing susp formulation provided in product labeling	PO	VZV: ≥3 mo: 60 mg/kg/day (I, II) HSV: ≥3 mo: 40 mg/kg/day (II) Max single dose 1 g (I)	q8h q12h

Generic and Trade	Dosage Form			
Names	(cost estimate)	Route	Dose (evidence level)	Interval
Valganciclovir,ª Valcyte	250-mg/5-mL soln (\$\$) 450-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	Congenital CMV treatment: 32 mg/kg/day (II) (See Chapter 2.) CMV prophylaxis (in mg, not mg/kg): 7 mg \times BSA (m²) \times CrCl (mL/min/1.73 m² by using the modified Schwartz formula), max 900 mg (I) (See also Chapter 7.)	q12h q24h
Vancomycin, Vancocin	125-, 250-mg/5-mL susp (\$–\$\$) 125-, 250-mg cap ^a (\$–\$\$)	РО	40 mg/kg/day (l), max 500 mg/day (lll)	q6h
	0.5-, 0.75-, 1-, 5-, 10-g vial ^a (\$) 1.25-, 1.5-g vial (\$-\$\$) 0.5-, 0.75-, 1-, 1.25-, 1.5-, 1.75-, 2-g IVPB (\$\$)	IV	30–45 mg/kg/day (I) For invasive MRSA infection, 60–80 mg/kg/day adjusted to achieve AUC:MIC 400, max 3,600 mg/day	q6-8h
Voriconazole, a,b Vfend (See Aspergillosis in Chapter 5, Table 5B,	200-mg/5-mL susp (\$\$\$) 50-, 200-mg tab (\$\$)	PO	≥2 y and <50 kg: 18 mg/kg/day, max 700 mg/day (I) ≥50 kg: 400–600 mg/day (I)	q12h
under Treatment.)	200-mg vial (\$\$)	IV	≥2 y and <50 kg: 18 mg/kg/day LD for 1 day, then 16 mg/kg/day (I) ≥50 kg: 12 mg/kg/day LD for 1 day, then 8 mg/kg/ day (I)	q12h
Zanamivir, Relenza	5-mg blister cap for inhalation	Inhaled	Prophylaxis: ≥5 y: 10 mg/day (I)	q24h
	(\$)		Treatment: ≥7 y: 20 mg/day (I)	q12h

^a Available in a generic formulation.

^b Monitor serum or plasma concentrations.

^c Also currently under investigation in children younger than the age given for the listed dosages.

B. TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS	SKIN, EYE, EAR, MUCOS	۱)		
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form	Route	Dose	Interval
Acyclovir, Sitavig	50-mg tab	Buccal	Adults 50 mg, for herpes labialis	One time
Azithromycin, AzaSite	1% ophth soln	Ophth	1 drop	bid for 2 days, then qd for 5 days
Bacitracin ^a	Ophth oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q3-4h
	Oint ^b	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid-qid
Benzyl alcohol, Ulesfia	5% lotion	Тор	Apply to scalp and hair.	Once; repeat in 7 days.
Besifloxacin, Besivance	0.6% ophth susp	Ophth	≥1 y: 1 drop to affected eye	tid
Butenafine; Mentax, Lotrimin-Ultra	1% cream	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	qd
Butoconazole, Gynazole-1	2% prefilled cream	Vag	Adults 1 applicatorful	One time
Ciclopirox ^a ; Loprox, Penlac	0.77% cream, gel, lotion	Тор	≥10 y: apply to affected area.	bid
	1% shampoo	_	≥16 y: apply to scalp.	Twice weekly
	8% nail lacquer	_	≥12 y: apply to infected nail.	qd
Ciprofloxacin, ^a Cetraxal	0.2% otic soln	Otic	≥1 y: apply 3 drops to affected ear.	bid for 7 days
Ciprofloxacin, Ciloxan	0.3% ophth soln ^a	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q2h for 2 days, then q4h for 5 days
	0.3% ophth oint			q8h for 2 days, then q12h for 5 days
Ciprofloxacin, Otiprio	6% otic susp	Otic	≥6 mo: 0.1 mL each ear intratympanic, 0.2 mL to external ear canal for otitis externa	One time

B. TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS (SKIN, EYE, EAR, MUCOSA) (continued)				
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form	Route	Dose	Interval
Ciprofloxacin + dexamethasone, Ciprodex	0.3% + 0.1% otic soln	Otic	≥6 mo: apply 4 drops to affected ear.	bid for 7 days
Ciprofloxacin + fluocinolone, Otovel	0.3% + 0.025% otic soln	Otic	≥6 mo: instill 0.25 mL to affected ear.	bid for 7 days
Ciprofloxacin + hydrocortisone, Cipro HC	0.2% + 1% otic soln	Otic	≥1 y: apply 3 drops to affected ear.	bid for 7 days
Clindamycin				
Cleocin	100-mg ovule	Vag	1 ovule	qhs for 3 days
	2% vag cream ^a	_	1 applicatorful	qhs for 3–7 days
Cleocin-T ^a	1% soln, gel, lotion	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd-bid
Clindesse	2% cream	Vag	Adolescents and adults	One time
Evoclin ^a	1% foam	_	1 applicatorful	qd
Xaciato	2% gel	_		One time
Clindamycin + benzoyl peroxide, BenzaClin	1% gel ^a	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	bid
Acanya	1.2% gel	Тор	Apply small amount to face.	q24h
Clindamycin + tretinoin; Ziana, Veltin	1.2% gel	Тор	Apply small amount to face.	hs
Clotrimazole, a,b Lotrimin	1% cream, lotion, soln	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid
Gyne-Lotrimin-3 ^{a,b}	2% cream	Vag	≥12 y: 1 applicatorful	qhs for 7–14 days
Gyne-Lotrimin-7 ^{a,b}	1% cream	_		qhs for 3 days
Clotrimazole + betamethasone, a Lotrisone	1% + 0.05% cream, lotion	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	bid
Colistin + neomycin + hydrocortisone; Coly-Mycin S, Cortisporin TC otic	0.3% otic susp	Otic	Apply 3–4 drops to affected ear canal; may use with wick.	q6-8h

Cortisporin; bacitracin + neomycin + polymyxin B + hydrocortisone	Oint	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid-qid
Cortisporin; neomycin + polymyxin B +	Otic soln ^a	Otic	3 drops to affected ear	bid-qid
hydrocortisone	Cream	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid-qid
Dapsone, ^a Aczone	5% gel	Тор	≥9 y: apply to affected area.	bid
	7.5% gel			qd
Econazole, a Spectazole	1% cream	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd-bid
Efinaconazole, Jublia	10% soln	Тор	Apply to toenail.	qd for 48 wk
Erythromycin ^a	0.5% ophth oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q4h
Akne-Mycin	2% oint	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid
Ery Pads	2% pledgets ^a			
Eryderm, ^a Erygel ^a	2% soln, gel			
Erythromycin + benzoyl peroxide, ^a Benzamycin	3% gel	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	qd-bid
Ganciclovir, Zirgan	0.15% ophth gel	Ophth	≥2 y: 1 drop in affected eye	q3h while awake (5 times/day) until healed, then tid for 7 days
Gatifloxacin, Zymar	0.3% ophth soln	Ophth	1 drop in affected eye	q2h for 2 days, then q6h
Gatifloxacin, ^a Zymaxid	0.5% ophth soln	Ophth	≥1 y: 1 drop in affected eye	q2h for 1 day, then q6h

B. TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS (SKIN, EYE, EAR, MUCOSA) (continued)				
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form	Route	Dose	Interval
Gentamicin, ^a Garamycin	0.1% cream, oint	Тор	Apply to affected area.	tid-qid
	0.3% ophth soln, oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q1–4h (soln) q4–8h (oint)
Gentamicin + prednisolone, Pred-G	0.3% ophth soln, oint	Ophth	Adults: apply to affected eye.	q1–4h (soln) qd–tid (oint)
Imiquimod,ª Aldara	5% cream	Тор	≥12y: to perianal or external genital warts	3 times/wk
Ivermectin, Sklice	0.5% lotion	Тор	≥6 mo: thoroughly coat hair and scalp, rinse after 10 minutes.	Once
Ivermectin, ^a Soolantra	1% cream	Тор	Adults: apply to face.	qd
Ketoconazole, ^a Nizoral	2% shampoo	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	qd
	2% cream	_		qd-bid
Extina, Xolegel	2% foam, gel	_		bid
Nizoral A-D	1% shampoo	_		bid
Levofloxacina; Quixin, Iquix	0.5%, 1.5% ophth soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q1-4h
Luliconazole, Luzu	1% cream	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	q24h for 1–2 wk
Mafenide, Sulfamylon	8.5% cream	Тор	Apply to burn.	qd-bid
	5-g pwd for reconstitution	_	To keep burn dressing wet	q4–8h as needed
Malathion, ^a Ovide	0.5% soln	Тор	≥6 y: apply to hair and scalp.	Once
Maxitrol ^a ; neomycin + polymyxin + dexamethasone	Susp, oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q1–4h (susp) q4h (oint)

Metronidazole ^a	0.750/ second gol letion	Ton	Adults, apply to offeeted area	bid
Wetronidazoie	0.75% cream, gel, lotion	Тор	Adults: apply to affected area.	
	0.75% vag gel	Vag	Adults 1 applicatorful	qd-bid
	1% gel	Тор	Adults: apply to affected area.	qd
Noritate	1% cream	Тор	Adults: apply to affected area.	qd
Nuvessa	1.3% vag gel	Vag	≥12 y: 1 applicatorful	Once
Miconazole				
Fungoid ^{a,b}	2% tincture	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid
Micatin ^{a,b} and others	2% cream, pwd, oint, spray, lotion, gel	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd-bid
Monistat-1 ^{a,b}	1.2-g ovule + 2% cream		≥12 y: insert one ovule (plus cream	Once
Monistat-3 ^{a,b}	200-mg ovule, 4% cream	-	to external vulva bid as needed).	qhs for 3 days
Monistat-7 ^{a,b}	100-mg ovule, 2% cream	-		qhs for 7 days
Vusion	0.25% oint	Тор	To diaper dermatitis	Each diaper change for 7 days
Minocycline, Amzeeq	4% foam	Тор	≥9 y: apply to acne.	qd
Moxifloxacin, Vigamox	0.5% ophth soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	tid
Mupirocin, Bactroban	2% oint, ^a cream ^a	Тор	Apply to infected skin.	tid
Naftifine, ^a Naftin	1%, 2% cream, gel	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd
Natamycin, Natacyn	5% ophth soln	Ophth	Adults: apply to affected eye.	q1–4h

Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form	Route	Dose	Interval
Neosporina				
bacitracin + neomycin + polymyxin B	Ophth oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q4h
	Oint ^{a,b}	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid-qid
gramicidin + neomycin + polymyxin B	Ophth soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q4h
Nystatin, ^a Mycostatin	100,000 U/g cream, oint, pwd	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid-qid
Nystatin + triamcinolone, ^a Mycolog II	100,000 U/g + 0.1% cream, oint	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid
Ofloxacina; Floxin Otic, Ocuflox	0.3% otic soln	Otic	5–10 drops to affected ear	qd-bid
	0.3% ophth soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q1–6h
Oxiconazole, Oxistat	1% cream, ^a lotion	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd-bid
Ozenoxacin, Xepi	1% cream	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid for 5 days
Permethrin, Nix ^{a,b}	1% cream	Тор	Apply to hair/scalp.	Once for 10 min
Elimite ^a	5% cream		Apply to all skin surfaces.	Once for 8–14 h
Piperonyl butoxide + pyrethrins, a,b Rid	4% + 0.3% shampoo, gel	Тор	Apply to affected area.	Once for 10 min
Polysporin, ^a polymyxin B + bacitracin	Ophth oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	qd-tid
	Oint ^b	Тор	Apply to affected area.	
Polytrim, ^a polymyxin B + TMP	Ophth soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q3-4h
Retapamulin, Altabax	1% oint	Тор	Apply thin layer to affected area.	bid for 5 days

Selenium sulfide, ^a Selsun	2.5% lotion 2.25% shampoo	Тор	Lather into scalp or affected area.	Twice weekly, then q1–2wk	
Selsun Blue ^{a,b}	1% shampoo	_		qd	
Sertaconazole, Ertaczo	2% cream	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	bid	
Silver sulfadiazine, ^a Silvadene	1% cream	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd-bid	
Spinosad, ^a Natroba	0.9% susp	Тор	Apply to scalp and hair.	Once; may repeat in 7 days	
Sulconazole, Exelderm	1% soln, cream	Тор	Adults: apply to affected area.	qd-bid	
Sulfacetamide sodium ^a	10% soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q1–3h	
	10% ophth oint	_		q4–6h	
	10% lotion, wash, cream	Тор	≥12 y: apply to affected area.	bid-qid	
Sulfacetamide sodium + prednisolone, ^a Blephamide	10% ophth oint, soln	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	tid-qid	
Tavaborole, Kerydin	5% soln	Тор	Adults: apply to toenail.	qd for 48 wk	
Terbinafine, ^b Lamisil-AT	1% cream, ^a spray, gel	Тор	Apply to affected area.	qd-bid	
Terconazole, ^a Terazol	0.4% cream	Vag	Adults 1 applicatorful or 1	qhs for 7 days	
	0.8% cream 80-mg suppository	_	suppository	qhs for 3 days	
Tioconazole ^{a,b}	6.5% oint	Vag	≥12 y: 1 applicatorful	One time	
Tobramycin, Tobrex	0.3% soln, ^a oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q1–4h (soln) q4–8h (oint)	
Tobramycin + dexamethasone, Tobradex	0.3% soln, ^a oint	Ophth	Apply to affected eye.	q2-6h (soln) q6-8h (oint)	

B. TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS (SKIN, EYE, EAR, MUCOSA) (continued)						
Generic and Trade Names	Dosage Form	Route	Dose	Interval		
Tobramycin + loteprednol, Zylet	0.3% + 0.5% ophth susp	Ophth	Adults: apply to affected eye.	q4-6h		
Tolnaftate, a,b Tinactin	1% cream, soln, pwd, spray	Тор	Apply to affected area.	bid		
Trifluridine, a Viroptic	1% ophth soln	Ophth	1 drop (max 9 drops/day)	q2h		

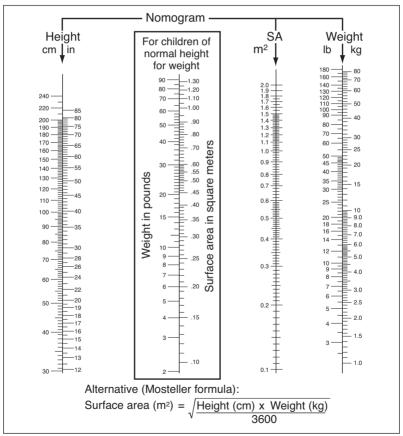
^a Generic available.

^b Over the counter.

Appendix

Nomogram for Determining Body Surface Area

Based on the nomogram shown below, a straight line joining the patient's height and weight will intersect the center column at the calculated body surface area (BSA). For children of normal height and weight, the child's weight in pounds is used, and then the examiner reads across to the corresponding BSA in meters. Alternatively, the Mosteller formula can be used.



Nomogram and equation to determine body surface area.

From Engorn B, Flerlage J, eds. *The Harriet Lane Handbook*. 20th ed. Elsevier Mosby; 2015. Reproduced with permission from Elsevier.

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