

Internal Memo

Microbiology Department

To: Consultants, Ward Managers, Pharmacy

Date July 2006

From: Annette Clarkson, Microbiology Pharmacist City Campus
Tim Hills , Microbiology and Infection Control QMC Campus
(On behalf of NUH Antibiotic Guidelines Committee)

Re: IV to oral switch of clindamycin

Intravenous clindamycin is a restricted agent for the treatment of serious streptococcal and staphylococcal soft tissue infections unresponsive to the penicillins, or in those who are penicillin allergic and in those with bone and joint infections who are penicillin allergic. All other cases require approval from a medical microbiologist. If approval obtained please ensure that this is documented in the medical notes. The price of IV clindamycin is significantly greater than oral clindamycin (see table). As clindamycin has an oral bioavailability of 90%^{1,2,3}, the antibiotic guidelines committee is recommending the use of oral clindamycin where appropriate. For all those patients requiring treatment with clindamycin oral treatment should be prescribed first line, except in the following cases:

EXCEPTIONS WHERE IV THERAPY IS RECOMMENDED

- Oral route compromised eg vomiting, malabsorptive disorder, NBM, swallowing problems
- Necrotising fasciitis
- Acute Osteomyelitis and Septic arthritis (change to oral when medically stable)
- Sepsis (Fever, confusion, tachycardia, tachypnoea, hypotension, oliguria, acidosis)
- Severe soft tissue infections unresponsive to penicillins
- Prolonged rupture of membranes if penicillin allergic
- Microbiology approval required for other uses

NB Clindamycin is not recommended for the treatment of erythromycin resistant streptococcal and staphylococcal infection.

Dosing

The maximum oral licensed dose is 450mg qds. However, higher oral doses of 600mg qds have been documented in the literature for a variety of different indications^{1,4}. Therefore in **severe** infection an oral dose of 600mg qds can be used. Please note that this is an unlicensed dose and therefore responsibility lies with the prescriber. If using the higher dose, patients should be carefully monitored and the appearance of marked diarrhoea should be regarded as an indication that the product should be discontinued immediately³.

Patients with swallowing difficulties

It is not recommended that the capsules are opened as they have a poor taste and give off an offensive smell when opened. The paediatric suspension has been discontinued within the UK but there is an oral suspension available, which can be imported via IDIS. However, due to the cost of the suspension and the volume required for adult dosing, it is recommend that where clindamycin is indicated that the IV route is used in this patient group.

COST COMPARISONS OF CLINDAMYCIN PREPARATIONS

FORMULATION	Cost for one day treatment (600mg qds)
Clindamycin capsules	£1.80
Clindamycin oral suspension 75mg/5ml	£23.60
Clindamycin 75mg/5ml oral powder	£34.40
Clindamycin injection (600mg qds)	£43.41

1. Drugdex System:Klasco RK (Ed): Drugdex® System.Thompson Micromedex, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA, Available at:

<http://www.thomsonhc.com> accessed <16 June 2006>

2.Gilbert D et al. The Sanford guide to antimicrobial therapy 2006, Antimicrobial Therapy INC, Sperryville, VA, USA

3.Summary of product characteristics for clindamycin. Available at <http://www.medicines.org.uk/> accessed<13 July 06>

4.Recommendations from the CDC, the national institutes for health, and the HIV medicines association/Infectious Diseases society of America. Treating opportunistic Infections Among HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents - December 17, 2004