Cefalexin (Cephalexin) 2019

For newborn use only

Alert	The Antimicrobial Stewardship Team recommends this drug is listed under the following category: Unrestricted.
Indication	Treatment of mild infections due to susceptible strains of bacteria. Prophylaxis of urinary tract infections in patients at risk (e.g. vesicoureteric reflux).
Action	First generation cephalosporin. Bactericidal – inhibits cell wall synthesis in susceptible organisms. Most active against Gram-positive cocci, including MSSA and streptococci. Has have no activity against enterococci, MRSA or *Listeria*.[1]
Drug Type	Cephalosporin antibiotic.
Trade Name	APO-Cephalexin, Cefalexin Sandoz, Ialex, Ibilex, Keflex.
Presentation	125 mg/5 mL suspension 250 mg/5mL suspension
Dosage / Interval	**Treatment** **Method** / **Interval** **Postnatal Age (Days)** / **Dose** 0–7 days: 25 mg/kg: 12-hourly 8–28 days: 25 mg/kg: 8-hourly 29+ days: 25 mg/kg: 6-hourly **Prophylaxis of urinary tract infection (UTI)** 12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose DAILY (maximum dose 125 mg daily).[7,8] **Prophylaxis around Voiding Cystourethrogram** 12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose 8-hourly for 3 days (day prior, on the day and one day after MCU).[10]
Route	Oral
Maximum Daily Dose	500 mg
Preparation/Dilution	Powder usually reconstituted by Pharmacy. If supplied unreconstituted, reconstitute powder for oral suspension using water for injection with the volume specified on the bottle.
Administration	Oral: Prophylactic dose: May be taken with or without food. Treatment dose: Preferably commence treatment without feeds (faster absorption and higher peak concentrations)[3] Shake bottle well before measuring dose.
Monitoring	Monitor renal, hepatic and haematological function with prolonged use.
Contraindications	Hypersensitivity to cephalosporins. Immediate hypersensitivity or severe reaction to penicillins.
Precautions	Use with caution in patients with hypersensitivity or mild adverse reactions to penicillins or carbapenems as cross-reactivity can occur (e.g. rash).
Drug Interactions	Nil relevant.
Adverse Reactions	Diarrhoea, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Pseudomembranous colitis (rare). Transient elevation of liver enzymes. Hypersensitivity: Immediate – urticaria, bronchospasm, anaphylaxis. Delayed – maculopapular rash, fever, eosinophilia.
Compatibility	Can be given with food.
Incompatibility	Not applicable.
Stability	Reconstituted solution should be discarded after 14 days.
Storage	Store powder below 25°C Store reconstituted solution between 2 and 8°C
Special Comments	May cause false positive Coombs test. Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.
Evidence summary	Refer to full version.

References	Refer to full version.

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