

Cefalexin

Newborn use only

2020

Alert	High risk medicine. 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, such as 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 <i>Listeria</i> . ¹														
Drug type	Cephalosporin antibiotic.														
Trade name	APO-Cephalexin, Cefalexin Sandoz, Ialex, Ibilex, Keflex.														
Presentation	125 mg/5 mL suspension 250 mg/5mL suspension														
Dose	<p>Treatment</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Postnatal Age (Days)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Dose</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Interval</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0–7 days</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25 mg/kg</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12-hourly</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8–28 days</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25 mg/kg</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8-hourly</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">≥29 days</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25 mg/kg</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6-hourly</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Prophylaxis of urinary tract infection (UTI) 12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose DAILY (maximum dose 125 mg daily).^{7,8}</p> <p>Prophylaxis around Micturating Cystourethrogram (MCU) 12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose 8-hourly for 3 days (day prior, on the day and one day after MCU).¹⁰</p>			Postnatal Age (Days)	Dose	Interval	0–7 days	25 mg/kg	12-hourly	8–28 days	25 mg/kg	8-hourly	≥29 days	25 mg/kg	6-hourly
Postnatal Age (Days)	Dose	Interval													
0–7 days	25 mg/kg	12-hourly													
8–28 days	25 mg/kg	8-hourly													
≥29 days	25 mg/kg	6-hourly													
Dose adjustment															
Maximum dose	500 mg														
Total cumulative dose															
Route	Oral														
Preparation	Supplied reconstituted by Pharmacy. If supplied unreconstituted, use water for injection with the volume specified on the packaging for reconstitution.														
Administration	Shake bottle well before measuring dose. Prophylactic dose: May be taken with or without food. Treatment dose: Preferably commence treatment without feeds for faster absorption and higher peak concentrations ³														
Monitoring	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	Not applicable.														
Adverse reactions	Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, vomiting. Pseudomembranous colitis (rare). Transient elevation of liver enzymes. Hypersensitivity: Immediate – urticaria, bronchospasm, anaphylaxis. Delayed – maculopapular rash, fever, eosinophilia.														
Compatibility	Not applicable.														
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														
Excipients															
Special comments	May cause false positive Coombs test. Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.														
Evidence	Refer to full version.														

Practice points	Refer to full version.
References	Refer to full version.

VERSION/NUMBER	DATE
Original 1.1	08/08/2015
Version2.0	20/05/2019
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