

Educational Pearl

Single-Dose Aminoglycoside for Cystitis: An Oldie but Goodie

Urinary tract infections (UTI) are one of the most common indications for antibiotics.¹ However, increasing antimicrobial resistance rates are limiting options for treatment. Aminoglycosides were introduced to the market in the 1940s and continue to have high rates of activity against uropathogens including those that are resistant to beta-lactams, fluoroquinolones, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.¹ Aminoglycoside use, however, has decreased during the last few decades due to concerns for adverse events such as nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity.²

With increasing rates of antimicrobial resistance, the utility of single-dose aminoglycosides has re-emerged.¹

Why are single dose aminoglycosides an ideal option for cystitis?

- Primarily excreted in the urine (85%-95%) with therapeutic levels for several days¹
- Intramuscular (IM) or intravenous (IV) administration allows for emergency department and clinic availability
- Reduces hospital admission rates for longer courses of IV antibiotics when no oral options exist¹
- No concern for lack of adherence to oral antibiotics
- Low risk for *Clostridioides difficile* infection due to lack of penetration into the gut lumen³
- Serum drug level monitoring not needed
- Toxicity risk minimal with single dose¹

What's the data?

Goodlet and colleagues reviewed 13 studies including 13,804 patients receiving single-dose aminoglycosides for UTI. The overall microbiologic cure rate was $94.5\% \pm 4.3\%$. Among those studies that had comparator arms, microbiologic cure rates for aminoglycosides and comparators were $95.4\% \pm 4.2\%$ and $95.6\% \pm 3.9\%$ respectively (p=0.76). The clinical cure, reported in only two studies, was 82.8% and 94.7%. The sustained microbiologic cure rate at 30 days was 73.4% \pm 9.6%. The aminoglycoside adverse event rate across all studies was 0.5% (64/13,804). In comparative studies, the reported adverse event rate among alternatives was 3.5% (8/226).¹

Do the guidelines recommend it?

The 2022 IDSA gram negative resistance guidelines recommended single dose aminoglycoside as an alternative option for treatment of uncomplicated cystitis caused by resistant gram negative bacteria (e.g. ESBL, AmpC, CRE).^{4,5}

Cystitis dosing: 5 mg/kg/dose for gentamicin or tobramycin and 15 mg/kg/dose for amikacin.^{4,5} Use adjusted body weight instead of total body weight (TBW) if TBW > 120% ideal body weight.

Key takeaway: Single-dose aminoglycosides are an option in uncomplicated cystitis and have several advantages over alternatives

References:

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