



Antibiotics in Infected Pancreatic Necrosis

[Most patients with acute pancreatitis do not need antibiotics](#); however, 30% of patients with pancreatic necrosis will develop infected pancreatic necrosis. Antibiotics are indicated in infected pancreatic necrosis and ones that penetrate pancreatic necrosis should be used.² Which antibiotics can be used in the management of infected pancreatic necrosis?

Which antibiotics penetrate the pancreas?

Antibiotics with known pancreatic penetration and/or demonstrated efficacy in infected pancreatitis necrosis are summarized in the table below.²⁻¹³

Antimicrobials to Avoid	Antimicrobials To Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aminoglycosides • Ampicillin • First-generation cephalosporins • Cefoxitin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceftriaxone • Ceftazidime • Cefepime • Piperacillin-tazobactam • Carbapenems • Fluoroquinolones • Metronidazole • Vancomycin • Linezolid • Fluconazole • Anidulafungin • Miconazole

Common pathogens of infected pancreatic necrosis include enteric gram-negative bacteria and anaerobes, therefore empiric antibiotic regimens should provide coverage of these (e.g. [piperacillin-tazobactam monotherapy](#), cefepime + metronidazole).

Key Takeaway: Antibiotics with adequate penetration into pancreatic necrosis are necessary for the management of patients with infected pancreatic necrosis.

References

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