

## Chemotherapeutics IV – UTI therapy and prevention 2023

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### I. Quinolones:

I generation (non-fluorinated quinolones) - nalidixic acid (old generation)

II generation (fluorinated quinolones): ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin

III generation (fluorinated quinolones): gati-, levofloxacin

IV generation (fluorinated quinolones): gemi-, moxi-, trova-, delafloxacin

**Mechanism of action:** inhibition of DNA gyrase and Topoisomerase IV

#### Pharmacokinetics:

Absorption: very well from GI

Food does not impair the absorption of most quinolones. However, quinolones chelate with cations such as aluminum, magnesium, calcium, iron, and zinc = reduced absorption and bioavailability, resulting in lower serum drug concentrations and less target-tissue penetration

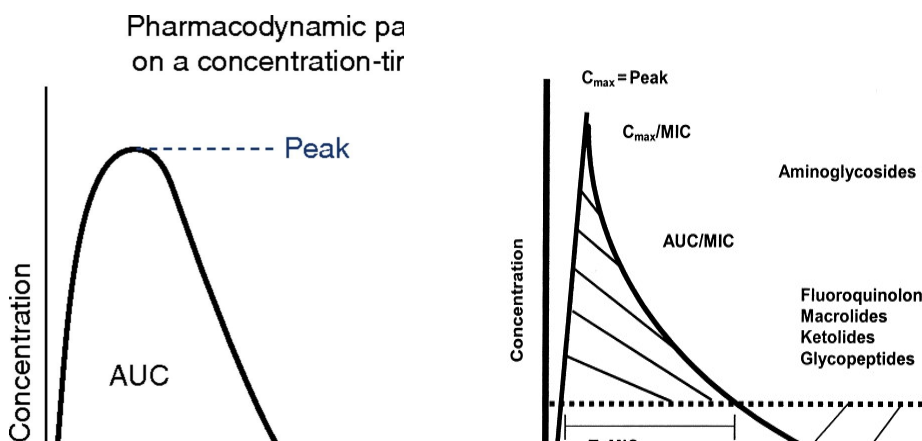
Distribution: very good into most tissues (poor CSF penetration into uninflamed meninges, but ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin and trovafloxacin – are known to penetrate to a moderate extent in the presence of inflammation)

Protein binding – low/moderate

Metabolism: liver (primarily by glucuronides conjugation)

Elimination: urine (glomerular filtration and tubular secretion) or bile (moxifloxacin, trovafloxacin)

#### Postantibiotic effect



**Quinolones:** concentration-dependent and dose-dependent antibiotics with persistent postantibiotic effect.

#### Antimicrobial activity:

Gram negative aerobics (inc. Pseudomonas) - All of FQ,

Streptococci – levo-, gati-, moxifloxacin

Staphylococci (exc. MRSA) - All of FQ, delafloxacin has activity against MRSA

Atypical bacteria - All of FQ,

Mycobacterium – cipro-, ofloxacin

Anaerobes – gemifloxacin

**Indications:**

- UTI (complicated UTI, in uncomplicated UTI – only pyelonephritis): cipro-, norflo-, levofloxacin
- respiratory tract infections (community-acquired pneumonia in patients with intolerance to beta-lactams and macrolides, exacerbation of COPD, legionella community-acquired pneumonia, nosocomial pneumonia due to *P. aeruginosa* (with no risk to MRSA)): ciprofloxacin, moxifloxacin, levofloxacin, delafloxacin
- traveler's diarrhea: ciprofloxacin
- prostatitis: cipro-, levofloxacin
- conjunctivitis: cipro-, moxi-, levo-, oflo-, gatifloxacin
- severe marrow and bone infections: ciprofloxacin
- skin and its appendages infections: cipro-, oflo-, dela-, levofloxacin
- drug resistant tuberculosis: moxi-, levo-, gatifloxacin
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**Adverse effects:**

- neuropathy- dizziness, hallucinations, seizures
- phototoxic and fotoallergic reactions
- headache
- prolongation of thr QT wave (especially moxifloxacin)
- tendonitis and tendon rupture
- cartilage damage
- dysglycemia
- **risk of aortic dissecting aneurysm!**

**Contraindications:** pregnancy, prepuberal children, lactation (exc. exacerbation of cystic fibrosis due to *P. aeruginosa*, inhalation anthrax – levo-, ciprofloxacin)

The recommendation is that fluoroquinolones should not be used in the following situations:

- patients who previously had serious side effects with a fluoroquinolone
- for treatment of uncomplicated self-limiting infections (for example throat infections)
- for prevention of recurring urinary tract infection
- for prevention of infection e.g. traveller's diarrhoea
- for uncomplicated lower urinary tract infection (exsc. pyelonephritis) - unless guided by susceptibility testing that indicates that no safe alternative is likely to be effective.
- for mild or moderately severe infections (unless guided by susceptibility testing that indicates that no safe alternative is likely to be effective)

The recommendation is that fluoroquinolones should be used with caution especially for:

- elderly
  - patients with kidney problems
  - patients who have had an organ transplantation or those who are being treated with a systemic corticosteroid

These patients are at higher risk of tendon injury caused by fluoroquinolones and quinolones antibiotics.

**II. Sulfonamides** (sulfadiazine, sulfacetamide, sulfamethoxazole, co-trimoxazole)

**Mechanism of action:** inhibition of folic acid synthesis

**Antibacterial activity:** Strep. pyogenes, pneumoniae, Haemophilus influenzae, Nocardia, Actinomyces, Chlamydia trachomatis

**Resistance:** Neisseria meningitidis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococci

**Pharmacokinetics:**

- well absorbed from GI
- variable absorption from the skin, vagina
- bound to plasma protein in varies degree
- distributed throughout all tissues and fluids incl. CSF
- metabolized in the liver (acetylation!), excreted in the urine partly as unchanged, partly as active substances

**Indications:**

- ocular infections – topical ocular sulfacetamid
- urinary tract and prostatic infections – sulfametoxazole (co-trimoxazole)
- burn infections – silver sulfadiazine
- malaria (resistant to mefloquine *Plasmodium falciparum*) - sulfadoxin + pyrimethamine
- toxoplasmosis - sulfasalazine + pyrimethamine

**Co-trimoxazole** (sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim)

**Activity:**

- Chlamydia
- Neisseria meningitidis
- Brucella
- Nocardia
- Yersinia
- Pneumocystis carinii (jiroveci)

Limited activity against: streptococcus, staphylococcus, Gram - aerobic

Resistant strains: Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Bacteroides, enterococci

**USES:**

- Therapy and prevention of UTI
- bronchitis (exacerbations)
- GI infections – traveler diarrhea, typhoid fever, shigellosis
- nocardiosis
- Pulmonary infections - Pneumocystis carinii (jiroveci)

**Adverse effects:**

- hypersensitivity reactions (skin rashes, erytema multiform, Stevens-Johnson syndrome)
- kernicterus
- agranulocytosis, acute aplastic, hemolytic anemia (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency )

**III. Metronidazole, tinidazole**

**Mechanism of action:** Metronidazole is reduced by low-redox-potential electron transfer proteins (e.g. nitroreductases such as ferredoxin) to unidentified polar product(s) which lack the nitro group. The reduction product(s) appears to be responsible for the cytotoxic and

antimicrobial effects of the drug which include disruption of DNA and inhibition of nucleic acid synthesis.

**Spectrum :**

Anaerobic bacteria: Clostridium, Bacteroides, Fusobacterium  
Trichomonas vaginalis  
Giardia lamblia, Entamoeba histolytica

**Pharmacokinetics :**

absorption: very well in GI and from the skin  
protein binding – poorly (20%)  
metabolism – hepatocytes,  
distribution- widely penetrate into most tissues (inc. CSF)  
elimination - urine 80%

**USES:**

- infections caused by anaerobic bacteria  
(abscess, postoperative infections, skin infections, bones, CNS, vaginitis) – therapy/prevention - metronidazole
- pseudomembranes colitis - metronidazole
- giardiasis, amoebiasis - tinidazole
- genital trichomoniasis - tinidazole
- sepsis - metronidazole
- periodontal infections, zapalenia dziąseł - metronidazole
- Ulcers - metronidazole
- eradication *H. pylori* – metronidazole

**Adverse effects:**

- vomiting, nausea, diarrhea
- metallic taste,
- leukopenia, thrombocytopenia,
- neuropathy (dizziness, vertigo, paresthesia)
- discoloration of urine
- glossitis, ulcerations in the oral cavity
- teratogenic effect

**UTI prevention of recurrences**

- Nalidixic acid and cinoxacin
- Co-trimoxazole
- Nitrofurantoin
- Methenamine

**IV. Nitrofuran derivatives – nitrofurantoin, furazidin**

**Mechanism of action:** reduction of nitric group by bacterial flavoproteins to reactive intermediates which inactivate or alter bacterial ribosomal proteins and other macromolecules. As a result of such inactivations, the vital biochemical processes of protein synthesis, aerobic energy metabolism, DNA synthesis, RNA synthesis, and cell wall synthesis are inhibited. Nitrofurantoin is bactericidal in urine at therapeutic doses.

**Spectrum:**

Aerobic gram + i gram - bacteria: Staphylococcus, Escherichia, Proteus, Salmonella, Shigella, Community-acquired only  
Resistant: Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter

### Pharmacokinetics

- Bioavailability: interaction with food (protein rich food increases 50%)
- Absorption – very well,
- Metabolism – liver, kidney
- Elimination – very rapidly (high concentration in urine!!!)

Urine pH !!!

Acidic - conversion to lipophilic metabolites, TOXICITY!!!  
alkaline – inactivation,

**Indications:** uncomplicated infections of urinary tract

Side effects:

- GI irritation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Megaloblastic, hemolytic anemia (G-6-P dehydrogenase deficiency),
- Peripheral neuropathy (paresthesia, confusion, vertigo)
- hypersensitivity reactions (Stevens-Johnson Syndrom),
- Urine discoloration - brown,
- Pulmonary fibrosis !!!!

### V. Methenamine

**Mechanism of action:** hydrolysis to formaldehyde and ammonia in acidic urine; formaldehyde has nonspecific bactericidal action

**Activity and therapeutic use:** nearly all bacteria, attention: urea-splitting bacteria

#### Pharmacokinetics:

absorbed from GI, when in enteric capsules,

excretion - nearly negative – decomposes in low pH (mandelate or hippurate)

#### Adverse effects:

gastrointestinal distress, albuminuria, hematuria, rashes

**Contraindications:** hepatic failure (ammonia), renal failure(acids – crystallization of methenamine)

### VI. Fosfomicin

**Mechanism of action:** interferes with early stage of bacterial cell wall synthesis by inhibiting phosphoenolpyruvate transferase.

**Activity:** Aerobic gram + i gram – bacteria require *N*-acetylmuramic acid for cell wall synthesis: *Escherichia*, *Proteus*, *Klebsiella*, *Salmonella*, *Enterobacter*, *Citrobacter*,  
Community-acquired only

**Therapeutic use:** asymptomatic bacteriuria, uncomplicated UTI, surgical prophylaxis

#### Pharmacokinetics:

absorbed partially in the small intestine, binds to plasma proteins at only negligible levels and is distributed widely into a variety of tissues; in addition to serum, elimination: unchanged in the urine

**Adverse effects:** diarrhea, headache, vaginitis

**Contraindications:** hypersensitivity reactions