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

Bactericidal – inhibits cell wall synthesis in susceptible organisms. Active against Streptococci and Staphylococci and against a limited range of gram-negative bacteria (including Escherichia coli and some Klebsiella species).

Drug Type

Cephalosporin antibiotic.

Trade Name

APO-Cephalexin, Cefalexin Sandoz, Chemmart Cephalexin, Cilex, Ialex, Ibilex, Keflex, Terry White Chemists Cephalexin.

Presentation

125 mg/5 mL suspension
250 mg/5 mL suspension

Dosage / Interval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postnatal Age (Days)</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–7 days</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 mg/kg</td>
<td>12 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–28 days</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 mg/kg</td>
<td>8 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29+ days</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 mg/kg</td>
<td>6 hourly</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Prophylaxis

12.5 mg/kg/dose DAILY (nocte)

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: Can be given with or without feeds. 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


Compatibility

Not available IV.

Incompatibility

Not available IV.

Stability

Reconstituted solution should be discarded after 14 days.

Storage

Store powder below 25°C
Store reconstituted solution between 2–8°C

Special Comments

May cause false positive Coombs test. Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.

Evidence summary

To be updated.
References

2. MIMSONline Cited: 15/05/2015.