



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

METRONIDAZOLE

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

Medication Class

Nitroimidazole antibiotic

Presentation

Tablet: 200mg, 400mg

Injection: 500mg/100mL

Suppositories: 500mg

Oral Suspension: 200mg/5mL

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Infusion:

Do not freeze.

Protect from light during storage; protection from light not required during infusion.

Dose

Prophylaxis for gynaecology and urogynaecology surgery

IV:

500mg IV (as a single dose within 60 min (ideally 15-30 min) prior to skin incision

Also refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: Infections: [Antibiotic prophylaxis for gynaecology and urogynaecology surgery](#)

Post-anal sphincter repair

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Perineal care and repair: protection, assessment and management](#)

Prophylaxis for operative vaginal birth

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Operative vaginal birth](#)

Bacterial vaginosis, trichomoniasis

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Sexually Transmitted Infections \(STI\)](#)

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Vaginal Infections: Antibiotic treatment for](#)

Secondary postpartum haemorrhage

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Postpartum complications](#)

Adult and maternal sepsis and septic shock

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Sepsis and septic shock: Antibiotics for adult patients at KEMH](#)

Infections Postpartum

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Infections in obstetrics \(intra-amniotic chorioamnionitis and postpartum infection\): Diagnosis and management](#)

Prophylaxis for reinfusion of processed vaginal blood

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Intraoperative cell salvage](#)

Prophylaxis for hysterosalpingogram for infertility

Refer to KEMH Clinical Practice Guideline: O&G: [Infections: Antibiotic prophylaxis/medication: Hysterosalpingogram for infertility](#)

Administration

IV infusion

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

Oral tablet

To be taken with food

Oral suspension

To be taken one hour BEFORE food

Monitoring

Monitor blood count and neurotoxic reactions when treating for >10 days

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative*

2nd Trimester: Considered safe to use

3rd Trimester: Considered safe to use

*Maternal use is not associated with increased risk of congenital malformations or adverse pregnancy outcomes. Mutagenic effects in bacteria and carcinogenic effects in animals have not been confirmed in human studies.

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

May cause some bitterness in milk. Use in divided doses after breastfeeding rather than single daily doses.

Comments

Avoid alcohol during treatment and for 24 hours after finishing the course to prevent nausea; vomiting, flushing, headache and palpitations.

There is good oral (70–90%) and rectal (60–80%) bioavailability.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

[WA Adult Medicines Formulary](#)

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

[Gynaecology \(Non-oncological\)](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Medication Administration](#)

[Prescribing by Eligible Private Practicing Midwives with a Scheduled Medicines Endorsement](#)

KEMH Services Pharmacy: [Medicines and breastfeeding](#)









References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Metronidazole. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2021 [cited 2021 May 19]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

Therapeutic Guidelines. Metronidazole In: eTG complete [Internet]. West Melbourne (Victoria): Therapeutic Guidelines; 2021 [cited 2021 Apr 12]. Available from: <https://tgldcdp-tg-org-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/etgAccess>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Metronidazole. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2021 [cited 2021 May 19]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

[Silver book – STI/BBV management guidelines](#)

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