Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
METRONIDAZOLE	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Unrestricted

Medication Class

Nitroimidazole antibiotic

Presentation

Tablet: 200 mg, 400 mg

Injection: 500 mg/100 mL

Suppositories: 500 mg

Oral Suspension: 200 mg/5 mL

Vaginal gel: 0.75% w/w

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Infusion:

Do not freeze.

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

Vaginal gel:

Do not freeze.

Dose

Prophylaxis for gynaecology and urogynaecology surgery

IV:

500 mg 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 Australian STI Management Guidelines - Trichomoniasis

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 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 for optimal absorption

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

* Considered safe to use in pregnancy if the drug of choice.

Most studies have not shown an association between metronidazole use and adverse birth outcomes. Mutagenic effects in bacteria and carcinogenic effects in animals have not been confirmed in human studies. Further studies investigating possible associations with increased risk of miscarriage or congenital hearing loss are required.

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

May cause some bitterness in milk. Use in divided doses after breastfeeding rather than single daily doses. If a single high dose (2 g) is required, consider withholding breastfeeding for 12 to 24 hours before resuming breastfeeding.

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 and rectal bioavailability. Oral tablets have almost 100% bioavailability. Suppositories have 60-80% bioavailability.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

WA Adult Medicines Formulary

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

Antimicrobial Stewardship

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

Medication Administration

KEMH Services Pharmacy: Medicines and breastfeeding

References

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