

**Patient Information Leaflets:  
Discussion of Zithromax,  
Rocephin, Doxycycline,  
Erythromycin, Flagyl and  
Bicillin L-A**

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast  
Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Central Time**

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

## **Faculty**

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## **Objectives**

- Discuss the use of the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) when DISPENSING medication in ADPH Clinics
- Define the proper use of PILs when dispensing medications in ADPH clinics

## **Objectives**

- Describe the importance of proper patient counseling prior to administering/dispensing medication
- List conditions that may contraindicate medication administered and/or dispensed by ADPH nurses

## **Objectives**

- Identify medications that may conflict with those administered/dispensed from the ADPH

## **Azithromycin (Zithromax)**

- Azithromycin is a macrolide antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections, including those that are sexually transmitted
- It has a half-life of 68 hours
  - Single dose stays in the body for an extended period (>3 days)

### **Azithromycin: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- History of
  - Kidney disease
  - Liver disease
  - Irregular heart beat or heart disease
  - Allergic reaction to a previous dose of azithromycin, other macrolide antibiotics, foods, dyes, or preservatives

### **Azithromycin: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- Is the patient pregnant or trying to become pregnant?
- Is the patient breastfeeding?

### **Azithromycin: Important Drug Interactions**

- Lincomycin
- Amiodarone
- Antacids
- Cyclosporine
- Digoxin
- Ergotamine or Dihydroergotamine
- Magnesium
- Nelfinavir
- Phenytoin
- Warfarin

### **Ceftriaxone (Rocephin)**

- Ceftriaxone is a parenteral third-generation cephalosporin antibiotic
  - Half-life is 6-9h

### **Ceftriaxone: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- History of
  - Any chronic illness
  - Bowel disease (colitis)
  - Concurrent kidney and liver disease
  - Unusual or allergic reaction to ceftriaxone, other cephalosporin or penicillin antibiotics, foods, dyes or preservatives

### **Ceftriaxone: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- Pregnant or trying to get pregnant?
- Breast-feeding?

### **Ceftriaxone: Important Drug Interactions**

- Calcium
  - Do not take this medication with Ceftriaxone
- Coumadin (Warfarin)
- Alcohol
- Some other antibiotics

### **Doxycycline (Monodox, Vibramycin)**

- Doxycycline is a tetracycline antibiotic
- Half-life is 12-15 hours

### **Doxycycline: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- History of
  - Severe liver disease
  - Unusual or allergic reaction to doxycycline, tetracycline antibiotics, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives
  - Bowel disease (ulcerative colitis or Crohn's)

### **Doxycycline: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- Do they plan to be out in the sun for long periods of time?
- Pregnant or trying to become pregnant?
- Breast-feeding?

### **Doxycycline: Important Drug Interactions**

- Antacids containing Ca, Mg, Al
- Vitamins containing iron or zinc
- Pepto-Bismol
- Seizure Medications (Phenytoin, Carbamazepine, Phenobarbital)
- Coumadin (Warfarin)
- Birth control pills
- Other antibiotics

### **Erythromycin Base**

- Erythromycin is a macrolide antibiotic
  - Half-life is 1.5-2 hours

### **Erythromycin Base: What to Know About Your Patient**

- History of
  - Severe liver disease
  - Myasthenia Gravis
  - Unusual or allergic reaction to erythromycin, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives
- Pregnant or trying to get pregnant?
- Breast-feeding?

### **Erythromycin Base: Important Drug Interactions**

- DO NOT take Erythromycin with the following drugs
  - Chloroquine
  - Cisapride
  - Droperidol
  - Eplerenone
  - Ergotamine/Dihydroergotamine
  - Methadone

### **Erythromycin Base: Important Drug Interactions**

- DO NOT take Erythromycin with the following drugs
  - Fluoroquinolones
  - Sirolimus
  - Some cholesterol medications (statins, red yeast rice)
  - Vinblastine

### **Erythromycin: Important Drug Interactions**

- Chloroquine, Cisapride, Droperidol & anti-arrhythmic drugs (Amiodarone, Dofetilide, Propafenone)
- Eplerenone
- Methadone
- Cholesterol lowering medications (statins, red yeast rice)
- Digoxin

### **Erythromycin: Important Drug Interactions**

- Warfarin
- Seizure medications (Phenytoin, Carbamazepine)
- Theophylline
- Bromocriptine
- Cyclosporine and Tacrolimus

### **Metronidazole (Flagyl)**

- Antibacterial and antiprotozoal agent that belongs to the nitroimidazole class
  - Half-life is 8h

### **Metronidazole: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- History of
  - Anemia or other blood disorders
  - Unusual or allergic reaction to metronidazole, or other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives
  - Disease of nervous system (seizure or peripheral neuropathy)
  - Severe liver disease
  - Fungal or yeast infection

### **Metronidazole: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- Alcohol consumption
- Pregnant or trying to become pregnant?
- Breast-feeding?

### **Metronidazole: Important Drug Interactions**

- Alcohol
- Disulfiram
- Ritonavir, Timpranivir, Amprenavir, Sertraline oral solutions
- Cimetidine
- Lithium
- Phenytoin
- Phenobarbital
- Warfarin

### **Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin L-A)**

- Penicillin G Benzathine is a long acting form of penicillin G
- After injection, a depot forms in the tissue and slowly releases the drug into the blood stream over several days
  - Serum levels can be detected up to 30 days after a single doses

### **Bicillin L-A: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- History of
  - Asthma
  - Severe kidney disease
  - Unusual or allergic reaction to penicillin G benzathine, any penicillin or cephalosporin antibiotic, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives

### **Bicillin L-A: What You Need to Know About Your Patient**

- Pregnant or trying to become pregnant?
- Breast-feeding?

### **Bicillin L-A: Important Drug Interactions**

- Aspirin, Indomethacin, probenacid, Ethacrynic acid, Phenylbutazone, diuretics (HCTZ, Lasix, etc.)
- Birth control pills
- Methotrexate
- Typhoid vaccine

### **Allergy Considerations**

- In addition to hypersensitivity reactions to the active drug therapy, patients may have an allergy to one of the inactive components of the drug formulation
- All patients need to be asked if they have any medication, food, dye, or preservative allergies

### **In Summary**

- Dispensing medications requires specific procedures according to laws, rules, and regulations
- Nurses should be aware of important health conditions or disease states listed on the Patient Information Leaflets that may interact and what actions they should take to resolve these interactions before dispensing medications in the health department

### **Resources**

- Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.;2009. URL: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology.com>
- Lexi-Comp [database online]. Hudson, OH: Lexi-Comp, Inc. Copyright © 1978-2009. <http://www.crlonline.com/crlsql/servlet/crlonline>

### **Resources**

- Drug Facts and Comparisons. Electronic edition. St. Louis: Wolters Kluwer Health, May 2009.