

SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS

Wound Infection

Organisms

- Commonly *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA is a possibility particularly in those patients who are elderly, have multiple conditions, reside in long term care institutions, have a previous history of MRSA or who have long term medical devices such as catheters, see MRSA [guideline](#)). Other organisms may be found following animal or human bites see local [guideline](#). Also see diabetic foot [guideline](#).
- Anaerobes if abdominal wound.

Practice points:

Culture all infected surgical wounds and give dates of the operation on the laboratory request form and review empirical treatment with culture results.

Local drainage and toilet may be sufficient in many cases.

If post-operative treat according to swab results.

Treatment

Antibiotic	Dose	Duration
Flucloxacillin (not if MRSA)	Child 1 month–1 year: 62.5–125 mg QDS Child 2–9 years: 125–250 mg QDS Child 10–17 years: 250–500 mg QDS Adult: 250–500 mg QDS	5-7 days
In penicillin allergy: Clarithromycin Or Doxycycline	Adult: 500mg BD Adult: 200mg first day then 100mg OD	5 days 5 days
If anaerobes are isolated or likely due to site of infection (abdominal/perineal) add in Metronidazole	Child 1 month: 7.5 mg/kg BD Child 2 months–11 years: 7.5 mg/kg TDS (max. per dose 400 mg) Child 12–17 years: 400 mg TDS Adult: 400 mg TDS	7 days
Alternatives if additional anaerobe cover needed but metronidazole contraindicated:		
In non-penicillin allergy Co-amoxiclav	Child 1–11 months: 0.25 mL/kg of 125mg/31 suspension TDS, dose doubled in severe infection. Child 1–5 years: 5 mL of 125/31 suspension TDS, dose doubled in severe infection. Child 6–11 years: 5 mL of 250/62 suspension TDS, dose doubled in severe infection Child 12–17 years: 375mg TDS; increased to 625mg TDS Adult: 625 mg TDS	5-7 days 5-7days 5-7 days 5-7days 5-7 days
In penicillin allergy: Clindamycin	Neonate up to 14 days: 3–6 mg/kg TDS. Neonate 14 days to 28 days: 3–6 mg/kg QDS Child: 3–6 mg/kg QDS (max. per dose 450 mg) Adult: 150–300 mg QDS; increased if necessary up to 450 mg QDS	7 days

Version Control- Wound Infection			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
V2.1	Nichola Butcher, Medicine Optimisation Pharmacist	19.07.21	Updated the adult's and children's doses, in line with British National Formulary for children, Sept 20-21
V2.2	N. Butcher, MO interface pharmacist	12/05/23	Statement about using metronidazole for deep wounds changed so not to be misinterpreted as the size of wound. Links to MRSA, diabetic foot and animal/human bites guidelines added.