

# Chemotherapy

## Sulphonamides

Cotrimoxazole-trimethoprim(no) (Bactrim, Septrin, Balakatin)

Very useful in UTI, RTI, Salmonella, and Pneumocystis pneumonia, and opportunistic infection in AIDS  
Prevents synthesis of folic acid from PABA

## Quinolones

Interfere with cell division of bacteria. by inhibiting topoisomerase 4 & DNA gyrase

Nalidixic Acid — Very old urinary antiseptic  
Norfloxacin — Used only for UTI+ 3-day course

### fluorinated 4-quinolones

ciprofloxacin (CIPRO)  
moxifloxacin (AVELOX)  
gatifloxacin (TEQUIN)  
Wide range of activity  
Prophylaxis for meningitis  
Very efficient and expensive  
Bad news, it can cause GI upset and epilepsy

## Nitrofurans(nitrofurantoin)

Modify bacterial macromolecules that affect biochemical processes .

Used in treatment and prophylaxis of microbial infections, primarily in the urinary tract

Lower UTI  
Not a bacterial suppressant  
used prophylactically post intercourse in women with chronic UTIs

Nitrofurans affect biochemical process that is shared between humans and bacteria, but the slower reduction by mammalian cells prevents high serum conc.

Active mainly against -ve bacteria (E.coli & P. mirabilis)  
it can affect +ve bacteria (S. aureus & Enterococcus faecalis)

Development of resistance is unknown and there is no cross-resistance cases reported

Its activity depends on its conc. And it may cause nausea and vomiting

## Methenamine (aromatic acid)

Hydrolyzed at pH lower than 6 into ammonia & formaldehyde (active alkylating agent)

Formaldehyde denatures proteins (bactericidal)  
Ammonia will be distributed to every body fluid

Administered orally as a salt (examples; mandelic & hippuric acid)

Acidify the urine generating formaldehyde (cidal) also it lowers the pH (static)

Well absorbed in the intestine but some of it will be decomposed in the stomach (unless they're protected)

Used as a long-term prophylactic or suppressive therapy of recurring UTIs

Used as sterilizer after the treatment of a bacterial infection in the urine .

## Beta-lactam antibiotic

Contains beta lactam ring

Responsible for its activity — Inhibits cell wall synthesis (cidal)  
Some bacteria developed resistance by producing lactamase

Penicillin G is the prototype

Oldest antibiotics but still growing

## the Penicillins

Produced by the fermentation of a medium that is used to culture penicillium

Can be used directly in clinical situations (penicillin G is the only natural one used clinically)

Penicillin G is effective against +ve bacteria

We can apply some modification on them to solve the resistance problem, by adding side chains or by drug combination

Ex. on drug combination; augmentin → clavulanic acid + amoxicillin

Penicillinase → inactivates penicillin by breaking beta lactam ring

Amidase → breaks penicillin into carboxylate and 6-aminopenicillinate

It inhibits the last step in peptidoglycan synthesis by penicillin-binding proteins which are on the surface of bacteria and have affinity toward penicillin

Beta lactamase inhibitors — Clavulanic acid, Sulbactam, Tazobactam

### Important examples about penicillin

Benzyl penicillin (penicillin G) — Highly active against +ve cocci, Hydrolyzed by penicillinase, Ineffective against S. aureus, IM injection

Procain benzylpenicillin — Painless & prolonged action, IM injection

Phenoxymethyl penicillin — Given orally and can't be destroyed by gastric juice

Cloxacillin, Dicloxacillin, and Flucloxacillin — Penicillinase resistant, Against staphylococcus