

Family	Drugs	Mechanism	Therapeutic use	Pros	Cons/ side effects
Sulphonamides	Cotrimoxazole- trimethoprim (bactrim, septrin, balaktrin)	structural analogs and competitive antagonists of para aminobenzoic acid (PABA), prevent folic acid synthesis	UTI, RTI, Salmonella, Pneumocystis pneumonia, opportunistic infections	Effective, no resistance (cotrimoxazole)	Resistance in the general family on sulfonamides, nausea, blood dyscrasia, rashes, precipitation and stone formation
Quinolones	Nalidixic acid	Target bacterial DNA gyrase and topoisomerase, prevent cell division	Very old UTI antiseptic	Wide range, even botulinium	Expensive, GI upset and epilepsy
	Norfloxacin		Only for UTI		
	Fluorinated 4 quinolones: ciprofloxacin (CIPRO), moxifloxacin (AVELOX), gatifloxacin (TEQUIN)		Prophylaxis for meningitis		
UT antiseptics	Nitrofurans (nitrofurantion)	modify various bacterial macromolecules that affect a variety of biochemical processes (e.g., DNA and RNA synthesis, protein synthesis)	treatment and/or prophylaxis of microbial infections, primarily in the urinary tract, prophylactically post intercourse in women with chronic UTIs	No known resistance	Nausea and vomiting
	Methenamine: mandelic (mandelamine) or hippuric (hiprex, urex) acid	Hydrolyzed to ammonia and formaldehyde, formaldehyde denatures protein and is bactericidal. Lowering pH by acting as an acid is bacteriostatic	long- term prophylactic or suppressive therapy of recurring UTIs, maintain sterile urine after infections		

B lactams: penicillins & cephalosporines

1) Penicillins	Penicillins	Benzyl Penicillin G (natural)	Inhibit cell wall synthesis by binding to (penicillin binding protein)	very effective against the most common and important Gram positive bacteria like Staph, Pneumococcus, and many others.	Painless, prolonged duration Oral, not affected by gastric juices Penicillinase resistant, effective on Staphs and S. aureus	Can be inhibited by bacterial penicillinase especially S. aureus	
		Procain benzyl penicillin					
		Phenoxymethyl penicillin					
		Cloxacillin					
		Dicloxacillin					
		Flucloxacillin					
	Penicillinase inhibitors	Clavulanic acid		With amoxicillin (Augmentin)			
		Sulbactam					
		Tazobactam					
	Broad-spectrum penicillins	Ampicillin	Inhibit cell wall synthesis by binding to (penicillin binding protein)	Same as regular penicillins but with widened spectrum		Less diarrhea and more completely absorbed, longer acting	can cause diarrhea, due to overgrowth of normal flora, and incomplete absorption.
		Amoxicillin					
		Azlocillin					
		Pipercillin					
		Ticarcillin					
	Antistaphylococcal (penicillinase resistant) Penicillins	Methicillin	Inhibit cell wall synthesis by binding to (penicillin binding protein)	Used for non MRSA/ MRSE staph spp.	effective against MRSA and (MRSE).		Some bacteria are MRSA, MRSE
		Nafcillin		For MRSA & MRSE, severe staphylococcal infections like cellulitis, empyema, endocarditis, osteomyelitis, pneumonia, septic arthritis, and toxic shock syndrome			
		Oxacillin					
		Cloxacillin					
		Dicloxacillin		Against MRSA/MRSE			
	B-Lactamase Inhibitor Combinations	ampicillin-sulbactam	[Unasyn]	clinical use	Note: All of the B-lactamase inhibitor combinations except amoxicillin- clavulanic acid are parenteral formulation, all combinations are excreted renally.		
ticarcillin-clavulanic acid		[Timentin]	in treating infections with known or suspected mixed bacterial flora, such as biliary infections, diabetic foot ulcers,				
piperacillin-tazobactam		[Zosyn]					
amoxicillin-clavulanic acid		[Augmentin]					

All penicillins are relatively safe, but can have some adverse effects: pain of injection, abscess formation, allergic reactions: (skin rash, urticaria, anaphylaxis, rash, fever, bronchospasm, dermatitis, Stevens- Johnson syndrome)

Family	Drugs	Mechanism	Therapeutic use	Pros	Cons/ side effects		
2) Cephalosporins	First generation	Cephalothin	Inhibit cell wall synthesis by binding to (penicillin binding protein)	Rarely the drugs of first choice for any infection. Mainly used for surgical prophylaxis.	Good activity against G+, relatively modest against G-	Expensive, especially the newer generations, same toxicity as penicillins, cross allergic with penicillins	
		Cefazolin					
	Second generation	Cefamandole					Increased activity against G-
		Cefozitine					
	Third generation	Cefoperazone					More active against Enterobacteriaceae, including β lactamase producing strains
		Cefotaxime					
		Ceftriaxone					
Fourth generation	Cefepime	extended spectrum of activity and stability from hydrolysis					
Aminoglycosides	Gentamicin	Disruption of cell membrane, and inhibition of ribosome by binding to 30s and 50s, mainly 30s	Used separately for aerobic G- mainly + staph, toxic	Postantibiotic effect	Not distributed well, do not cross the membranes, can be ototoxic & nephrotoxic		
	Neomycin		Very toxic. Not given systemically, sterilize the bowel before surgery, local drops or ointment in ear, eye or skin infections				
	Tobramycin		Against aerobic G- bacteria				
	Netilmicin						
	Amikacin		For TB only				
	Streptomycin						
Tetracyclines	Doxycycline	bacteriostatic, Inhibition of ribosomes 30s or 50s	Given once daily for acne (doxycycline)	Wide spectrum (G+ & G-), widely distributed	Resistance develops rapidly, side effects of doxycycline: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Changes in normal flora leading to diarrhea and candida infection. Bone deposits in children, appears on teeth.		
Chloramphenicol	Chloramphenicol	Inhibits ribosomes and protein synthesis by binding to 50s and inhibiting transpeptidation	1) Few life threatening infections. 2) Meningitis (H.influenzae, N.meningitidis, S.pneumoniae) 3) H.influenzae related arthritis, osteomyelitis, epiglottitis especially β lactam resistant strains and β lactams hypersensitivity conditions 4) Typhoid & paratyphoid fever in developing countries. 5) Topical for eye infections. 6) Alternative to tetracycline for rickettsial diseases mainly in children younger than 8. 7) For vancomycin-resistant enterococci. 8) Infections by penicillin resistant anaerobic bacteria (B.fragilis)	Broad spectrum (G+, G- including Rickettsia, Mycoplasma, Chlamydia spp, most anaerobic bacteria including B.fragilis), very effective, very widely distributed, no significant resistance	Very toxic, gray baby syndrome, in rare cases can cause aplastic anemia. Bone marrow suppression		
Macrolides	Erythromycin	Inhibits ribosomes and protein synthesis by binding to 50s	Same spectrum of penicillin, so substitutes in penicillin allergic patients, azithromycin is long acting, used to eradicate Helicobacter pylori.	Widely distributed in the body, even the prostate gland.	Can be given orally. Can cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Rarely can cause jaundice.		
	Clarithromycin						
	Azithromycin						

Family	Drugs	Mechanism	Therapeutic use	Pros	Cons/ side effects
Lincomycin & clindamycin	Lincomycin	Inhibits ribosomes and protein synthesis by binding to 50s	Effective against Gram positive bacteria, like penicillins, Should be reserved for deep seated infections like bone infection.		misused by doctors in the treatment of simple sore throat or URTI, overuse of lincomycin caused many cases of pseudomembraneous colitis (C.difficilli)
	Clindamycin				
Vancomycin	Vancomycin	Vancomycin inhibits the synthesis of the cell wall in the sensitive bacteria by binding with high affinity to the D-alanyl-D-alanine terminus of cell wall	Reserved for severe Staphylococcal infection, given by slow IV infusion. Given orally for pseudomembraneous colitis.		Very toxic, ototoxic & nephrotoxic
Antituberculous	Isoniazide	inhibit the biosynthesis of mycolic acids (cell wall component)	TB (orally)	Rapidly absorbed and widely distributed	Causes neuropathy, especially in slow metabolizers. Can be corrected by Vitamin B6.
	Rifampin	Inhibits RNA polymerase	TB & prophylaxis for meningitis	Broad spectrum antibiotic, so misused by doctors.	Can cause red discoloration of secretions: tears, urine etc
	Streptomycin		TB (still used in some cases)		Given by injection, resulted in noncompliance. Ototoxic. Resistance developed rapidly and replaced by Isoniazide
	Pyrazinamide				
	Ethambutol				
Antivirals					
Antiherpesvirus agents	Acyclovir	Inhibitor of DNA synthesis by competitive inhibition of dGTP	Used mainly to treat herpes infections, in varicella use is restricted to immunocompromized patients. Available as oral tablets, IV, eye drops or cream	Wide spectrum antiviral	Nausea, vomiting, skin rashes
Antiinfluenza agents	Amantadine (synthetic tricyclic amine)	inhibition of the viral M2 protein, an integral membrane protein that acts as a H channel, prevents acid mediated dissociation of the ribonucleoprotein complex, inhibits pH dependent viral assembly	Antiinfluenza		
	Rimantadine (amantadine's methyl derivative)				
	Oseltamivir				
	Zanamivir				
Anti HIV agents	Zidovudine	Inhibits viral DNA production	Anti HIV		Expensive, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, bone marrow suppression
	Indinavir	Protease inhibitor	Anti HIV		Expensive, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, renal stone formation, wears off quickly after dosing
Interferons	Interferons	possess antiviral, immunomodulating, and antiproliferative activities, (JAK-STAT) signal transduction	Used for HCV & some leukemias		Can cause nausea, fever, malaise (flu-like symptoms)

Laith Theeb