



Technical Bulletin

Cefazolin Susceptibilities for Uncomplicated UTI Now Available

TO: Medical Staff and Clients

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SUBJECT: New comment for Cefazolin explains that interpretation is only for uncomplicated UTI

Cefazolin is a first generation cephalosporin that is commonly used empirically to treat urinary tract infections (UTI). Limitations regarding our instrumentation, information systems, and Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) impeded our ability to report susceptibility of *E. coli*, *Proteus*, *Klebsiella* to this antimicrobial:

1. CLSI interpretations for uncomplicated UTI and other infections are significantly different.
2. Our instrument / panel do not have dilutions low enough for complicated UTI and other infections.
3. Our informatics systems cannot separate data the way CLSI recommends.

In order to overcome some of these limitations, DLS has begun reporting susceptibility of *E. coli*, *Proteus*, *Klebsiella* to cefazolin with a new interpretive comment:

Collection Site or Method: LEFT LEG

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Miscellaneous Culture (cent)
Report Status:                FINAL

Culture
Organism 1:      4+ "ESCHERICHIA VULNERIS"
Amikacin          S <=2      Ampicillin          S 4.00
Ampicillin-Sulbactam S 4.00      Cefepime           S <=1
Ceftriaxone       S <=1      Ciprofloxacin      S <=0.25
Gentamicin        S <=1      Piperacillin/tazobactam S <=4
Tobramycin        S <=1      Trimeth/Sulfa     S <=20
Ertapenem        S <=0.5

Organism 2:      4+ "ESCHERICHIA COLI"
Amikacin          S <=2      Ampicillin          S 4.00
Ampicillin-Sulbactam S 4.00      Cefepime           S <=1
Ceftriaxone       S <=1      Ciprofloxacin      S <=0.25
Gentamicin        S <=1      Piperacillin/tazobactam S <=4
Tobramycin        S <=1      Trimeth/Sulfa     S <=20
Ertapenem        S <=0.5      Cefazolin (Uncomp UTI) * S <=4
  
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*Cefazolin (uncomp UTI) interpretation is for therapy of uncomplicated UTI caused by *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* only. Cefazolin may not be effective at this MIC for other types of infections. Breakpoints for complicated infections are much lower, and outside the range of our routine testing instrument. Dosing is also different. Manual testing for these situations is available upon request.

Although the interpretation is only for uncomplicated UTI, results and the comment will accompany whenever cefazolin is reported on *E. coli*, *Proteus*, *Klebsiella*, even if the specimen is not urine.

- Please refer any questions to Terrie Koyamatsu, Manager - DLS Microbiology Laboratory at 589-5196, or DLS Client Services at 589-5101.