

Empiric Treatment of Pyelonephritis – Patients with Severe Penicillin Allergy

For patients with severe penicillin or cephalosporin allergy, empiric treatment options for pyelonephritis include ciprofloxacin or aztreonam. Institution-specific data suggest certain risk factors for ciprofloxacin resistance must be considered when choosing one of these options.

If the patient has at least one of the risk factors below, aztreonam is a better empiric treatment. Patients with none of these risk factors may receive ciprofloxacin.

Risk Factors for Pyelonephritis due to a Ciprofloxacin-Resistant Gram Negative

- Received antibiotics in the past 90 days
- History of >2 day hospitalization in the past 90 days
- Nursing home resident
- Immunocompromised (either medication or disease related)
- Receiving home infusion therapy
- End-stage renal disease

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