Cephalexin or Cefdinir for UTIs, which to choose?

Oral beta-lactams are used for a variety of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

Below you will find some facts to help guide your decision-making process.

**Antibiogram**

Cephalexin & Cefdinir have equivalent efficacy for UTI caused by *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, and *Proteus* species.

90% coverage of 2021 UNCMC community urine *E. coli* isolates (Outpatient & ED)

**Risk of CDI**

Cefdinir is associated with an increased risk of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) compared to Cephalexin

**Spectrum of Activity**

Cephalexin is more narrow in spectrum compared to Cefdinir

**Contact CASP**

If you have additional questions about management of a specific patient’s UTI course, contact a member of CASP via Epic by messaging the group "CASP"

**Cost**

Cefdinir dosage forms are routinely 2-3x more expensive* than Cephalexin dosage forms

*Based on cash price estimates; insurance coverage may vary

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**Cephalexin Dosing for Pediatric & Adult Patients with UTI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UTI Classification</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Pediatrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTI with bladder symptoms only (i.e., cystitis)</td>
<td>500mg PO three times daily x5 days</td>
<td>50mg/kg/day PO divided two to three times daily x5 days (max = 500mg/dose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTI with systemic symptoms (i.e., pyelonephritis)</td>
<td>500mg PO three to four times daily x10-14 days</td>
<td>75mg/kg/day PO divided three times daily x10-14 days (max = 1000mg/dose)</td>
</tr>
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**Cefdinir Dosing for Pediatric & Adult Patients with UTI**

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<td>14mg/kg/day PO divided two times daily x5 days (max = 300mg/dose)</td>
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Carolina Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (CASP)
University of North Carolina Medical Center
www.med.unc.edu/casp