

Linezolid (Zyvox®)

IV and PO Only

Use requires formal ID Consult

Activity: Coverage against *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA and MRSA), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, VRE

Criteria for Use:

- Vancomycin (VAN) MIC \geq 2 mg/L in MRSA pneumonia
- Patient with allergy to beta-lactams/vancomycin and organism resistant to other antimicrobials
- Significant VRE infections (i.e. isolated from a sterile site: blood, abscess)
- Infections due to MRSA in patient with well documented intolerance to VAN (**NOTE:** Red man syndrome is not a serious intolerance to VAN)

Formal ID consult for use in osteomyelitis or complicated skin and soft tissue infection and all indications that are not listed above

Unacceptable Uses:

- Empiric use when VRE has not been cultured or documented
- Uncomplicated urinary tract infection
- Positive respiratory culture for VRE
- VRE colonization

Dosing in Adults:

- Standard dose: 600 mg PO or IV Q12H
In patients tolerating PO medications, should be given orally
Oral formulation is completely absorbed and has 100% availability
- No renal or hepatic dose adjustment

Monitoring:

- CBC at baseline and weekly (**MONITOR platelets at baseline and weekly**)

Considerations for Use:

- Caution in patients with thrombocytopenia. 3 percent of patients were noted to have a platelet decrease $<$ 75% of baseline or lower limit of normal in controlled trials (therapy $<$ 28 days, most $<$ 21 days). **Thrombocytopenia is reversible upon discontinuation and is correlated with duration**
- Linezolid is a weak MAOI. Use in caution with decongestants (i.e. pseudoephedrine) and serotonergic agents (i.e. SSRIs [fluoxetine, escitalopram, sertraline, paroxetine, citalopram])
Warn patients to avoid large quantities of tyramine containing foods

CBC= Complete blood count; H= hour(s); ID= infectious disease; IV= Intravenous; MAOI= Monoamine oxidase inhibitors; MIC= Minimum inhibitory concentration; MRSA= Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; MSSA= Methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus*; PO= Oral; Q= every; SSRI= serotonin-specific reuptake inhibitors; VAN= Vancomycin; VRE= Vancomycin-resistant enterococci