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August 27, 2012

Clinical Alert: Update on Gonorrhea Treatment Recommendations

Dear Colleague:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention recently revised their recommendations for treating gonorrhea due to concerns over the increasing trend in antimicrobial resistance.¹ The CDC continues to recommend the following two dual therapy regimens as the most effective treatment for uncomplicated gonorrhea:

Ceftriaxone 250 mg intramuscularly once *plus* azithromycin 1 g orally once

or

Ceftriaxone 250 mg intramuscularly once *plus* doxycycline 100 mg orally two times a day for 7 days.²

CDC has changed the status of oral cefixime from a recommended treatment to an alternative treatment.

This is due to concerning data suggesting decreasing susceptibility of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to cefixime and other oral cephalosporins. Please note that Los Angeles County stopped recommending oral cefixime as a first-line therapy in August 2011.³

The full CDC report, commentary and learning materials are available online at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/treatment.htm>

As antibiotic susceptibility patterns evolve, treatment recommendations may change. To keep abreast of the most current information on the management of gonorrhea as well as other STDs in Los Angeles County please visit our STD Program Provider webpage: www.lapublichealth.org/std/providers.htm

Thank you for your help in controlling gonorrhea infection in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,



Peter R. Kerndt, M.D., M.P.H., Director
Los Angeles County Sexually Transmitted Disease Program
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¹ Update to CDC's Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010: Oral Cephalosporins No Longer a Recommended Treatment for Gonococcal Infections. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, August 10, 2012/61(31); 590-594.

² Azithromycin is the preferred second antimicrobial agent due to improved patient compliance and lower prevalence of resistance.

³ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, *Gonorrhea Treatment Guidelines*, 2011. Available at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/std/docs/LACGCGuidelines2011.pdf>, last accessed 8/20/2012.