Guidelines for Use of Cephalexin (Keflex)®

Recommended Neonatal Dose, Route, and Interval

25 - 50 mg/kg/day PO divided Q 6-8 hr.

UTI prophylaxis - 25 mg/kg/day PO divided BID

Chief Indications

1. First generation cephalosporin - bactericidal against many gram-positive and a few gram-negative organisms
2. Skin and soft tissue infections, impetigo neonatorum
3. Urinary tract infection prophylaxis

Possible Adverse Reactions

1. Hypersensitivity (anaphylaxis)

CONTRAINDICATIONS/PRECAUTIONS:

1. Use with caution in renal insufficiency
2. Should not be used in patients with an immediate hypersensitivity to penicillin - approximately 5 - 15% of penicillin-allergic patients will also be allergic to cephalosporins

Nursing Implications

1. Administer doses on an empty stomach; 2 hours before or 1 hour after meals, but may administer with food if stomach upset occurs

Special Considerations and Calculations

1. Adjust dose in renal failure

References:

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