Guidelines for the Use of Metronidazole (Flagyl®)

Recommended Neonatal Dose, Route, and Interval

- **Loading dose:** 15 mg/kg PO with the nearest feed or IV infusion by syringe pump over 60 minutes
- **Maintenance dose:** 7.5 mg/kg per dose PO with the nearest feed or IV infusion over 60 minutes. Begin one dose interval after initial dose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PMA (weeks)</th>
<th>Postnatal (days)</th>
<th>Interval (hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 29</td>
<td>0 to 28</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;28</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 36</td>
<td>0 to 14</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 to 44</td>
<td>0 to 7</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 45</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chief Indications

- Treatment of meningitis, ventriculitis, and endocarditis caused by Bacteroides fragilis and other anaerobes resistant to penicillin
- Treatment of serious intra-abdominal infections
- Treatment of C. difficile colitis

Possible Adverse Reactions:
1. Dry mouth
2. Diarrhea
3. Rash
4. Seizures
5. Thrombophlebitis
6. Discolored urine (brown or brown-red)
7. Leukopenia, neutropenia

Contraindications & Precautions
- Hypersensitivity to metronidazole
- Use with caution in patients with hepatic dysfunction

Nursing Implications
- Watch IV site for signs of phlebitis
- Monitor CBC, LFTs
- Give oral dose with the nearest feed.
- IV formulation: Do NOT refrigerate (crystals form, but re-dissolve once warmed to room temperature)
- PO formulation: Pharmacy will compound a 50mg/mL oral suspension. Refrigerate and
shake well. Expires: 60 days.

- IV compatible with TPN, lipids, and heparin. Please see Neofax or consult pharmacy for further compatibility inquiries.

References:
1. Neofax 2010

Reviewed/Revised: 4/2011 by

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