



## GUIDELINES FOR TREATMENT OF ODONTOGENIC INFECTIONS IN HOSPITALIZED ADULTS

Clinical Setting	Empiric Therapy	Duration	Comments
<p><b>Suppurative (pyogenic) orofacial odontogenic infection, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute apical periodontitis</li> <li>• Acute dentoalveolar abscess</li> <li>• Space infection around the face (local extension depends on the tooth involved):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masticator space</li> <li>- Buccal space</li> <li>- Canine space</li> <li>- Parotid space</li> <li>- Submandibular space</li> <li>- Submental space</li> <li>- Vestibular space</li> <li>- Ludwig's angina</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NOT including deep head and neck infection</li> </ul> <p>Pathogens:  <i>Streptococcus viridans</i>  <i>Streptococcus anginosus</i>  <i>Peptostreptococci</i>  <i>Prevotella</i>  <i>Fusobacterium</i>  <i>Porphyromonas</i>  <i>Bacteroides</i> spp.  <i>Veilonella</i>  <i>Actinomyces</i>  <i>Propionobacterium</i>  <i>Capnocytophaga</i></p> <p>Other uncommon pathogens:  <i>Staphylococci</i> spp            Enteric Gram negative bacilli</p>	<p><u>1st line:</u>  <b>Ampicillin-sulbactam</b> 3 g IV q6h*</p> <p><u>PCN allergy without anaphylaxis, angioedema, or urticaria:</u>  <b>Cefazolin</b> 2 g IV q8h*            + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500 mg IV/PO q8h</p> <p><u>Severe PCN or cephalosporin allergy (anaphylaxis, angioedema, hives):</u>  <b>Levofloxacin</b> 750 mg IV q24h*            + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500 mg IV/PO q8h</p>	<p><u>For acute apical periodontitis and acute dentoalveolar abscess:</u></p> <p><u>In the presence of surgical control:</u>            5 days post drainage</p> <p><u>In the absence of surgical control:</u>            Duration is dependent on clinical and/or radiographic improvement. Minimum of 7 days AND at least 3 days of clinical improvement</p> <p><u>Ludwig's angina:</u>            3 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The most important element is surgical drainage and removal of necrotic tissue.</b></li> <li>• Blood cultures should be sent when systemic signs are involved</li> <li>• If abscess is drained, aerobic and anaerobic bacterial cultures should be sent.</li> <li>• <i>Strep anginosus</i>, a prominent pathogen in these infections, is resistant to clindamycin &gt;20% of the time it is isolated in our hospital.</li> <li>• Consider ID consult for Ludwig's angina case</li> <li>• Coverage for <i>Actinomyces</i> may be considered in extensive infections, which would affect both coverage choices and duration.</li> </ul> <p>Oral step-down options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>1<sup>st</sup> line:</u>  <b>Amoxicillin-clavulanate</b> 875 mg PO BID*</li> <li>• <u>PCN allergic, without anaphylaxis, angioedema, or urticaria:</u>  <b>Cefuroxime</b> 500 mg PO BID*            + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500mg PO TID</li> <li>• <u>Severe PCN allergic patients who do not tolerate cephalosporins:</u>  <b>Levofloxacin</b> 750 mg PO daily*            + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500 mg PO TID</li> </ul>

Clinical Setting	Empiric Therapy	Duration	Comments
<p><b>Suppurative (pyogenic) orofacial odontogenic infection in:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severely immunocompromised patients</li> <li>Patients who have severe sepsis and/or septic shock</li> <li>Patients who had in-hospital surgical procedure in the past 90 days</li> </ol> <p>Pathogens:</p> <p><i>Streptococcus viridans</i>  <i>Streptococcus anginosus</i>  <i>Peptostreptococci</i>  <i>Prevotella</i>  <i>Fusobacterium</i>  <i>Porphyromonas</i>  <i>Bacteroides</i> spp  <i>Veilonella</i>  <i>Actinomyces</i>  <i>Propionobacterium</i>  <i>Capnocytophaga</i>  <i>Staphylococci</i> spp  Enteric Gram negative bacilli including <i>P. aeruginosa</i></p>	<p><u>1<sup>st</sup> line:</u>  <b>Vancomycin</b> IV (see <a href="#">nomogram</a>, AUC goal 400-600)*  + <b>Piperacillin-Tazobactam</b> 4.5 g IV q6h</p> <p><u>PCN allergy without anaphylaxis, angioedema, or urticaria:</u>  <b>Vancomycin</b> IV (see <a href="#">nomogram</a>, AUC goal 400-600)*  + <b>Cefepime</b> 2 g IV q8h*  + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500 mg IV/PO q8h</p> <p><u>Severe PCN or cephalosporin allergy (anaphylaxis, angioedema, hives):</u>  <b>Vancomycin</b> IV (see <a href="#">nomogram</a>, AUC goal 400-600)*  + <b>Aztreonam</b> 2 g IV q8h*  + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500 mg IV/PO q8h</p>	<p><u>For acute apical periodontitis and acute dentoalveolar abscess:</u>  Duration is dependent on surgical debridement, clinical &amp; radiographic improvement. Minimum of 7 days AND at least 3 days of clinical improvement</p> <p>Oral stepdown therapy depends on clinical improvement and microbiologic data.</p> <p><u>Ludwig's angina:</u>  3 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severely immunocompromised patients: neutropenia, allogeneic HSCT, HIV accompanied by CD4 &lt;200</li> <li><b>The most important element in surgical drainage and removal of necrotic tissue.</b></li> <li>ID consult is recommended</li> <li>Blood cultures should be sent when systemic signs are involved</li> <li>If abscess is drained, aerobic and anaerobic bacterial cultures should be sent.</li> <li><i>Strep anginosus</i>, a prominent pathogen in these infections, is resistant to clindamycin &gt;20% of the time it is isolated in our hospital.</li> <li>Coverage for <i>Actinomyces</i> may be considered in extensive infections, which would affect both coverage choices and duration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mandibular Osteomyelitis</b></p> <p>Pathogens:</p> <p><i>Streptococcus viridans</i>  <i>Streptococcus anginosus</i>  <i>Peptostreptococci</i>  <i>Prevotella</i>  <i>Fusobacterium</i>  <i>Porphyromonas</i>  <i>Bacteroides</i> spp  <i>Veilonella</i>  <i>Actinomyces</i>  <i>Propionobacterium</i>  <i>Capnocytophaga</i></p> <p>Other uncommon pathogens:  <i>Staphylococci</i> spp.  Enteric Gram negative bacilli  <i>Candida</i> spp.</p>	<p>Consider holding antibiotics until bone cultures can be obtained in hemodynamically stable patients</p> <p><u>1<sup>st</sup> line:</u>  <b>Ampicillin-sulbactam</b> 3 g IV q6h*</p> <p><u>PCN allergy without anaphylaxis, angioedema, or urticaria:</u>  <b>Ceftriaxone</b> 2 g IV q24h*  + <b>Metronidazole</b> 500 mg IV/PO q8h</p> <p><u>Severe PCN or cephalosporin allergy (anaphylaxis, angioedema, hives):</u>  <b>Moxifloxacin</b> 400 mg IV/PO q24h</p> <p>If mandibular osteomyelitis is secondary to contiguous spread of exposed bone from <u>Osteoradionecrosis</u> leading to the skin, then would <u>recommend the addition of vancomycin</u> to empiric therapy.</p>	<p>Final regimen pending microbiologic data.</p> <p>Duration to be determined by clinical improvement and serial evaluation, Typically 6 weeks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ID consult strongly recommended.</li> <li>When osteomyelitis is suspected, it is advised to attempt surgical debridement of necrotic bone, and to <b>send purulence and bone for pathology as well as anaerobic bacterial, aerobic bacterial and <i>Actinomyces</i> culture to help guide therapy.</b></li> <li>In the setting of mandibular osteomyelitis caused by tooth extraction or odontogenic infection, the typical oral flora are expected pathogens.</li> </ul>

\* Dose may need to be [adjusted for renal dysfunction](#)

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The recommendations in this guide are meant to serve as treatment guidelines for use at Michigan Medicine facilities. If you are an individual experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 immediately. These guidelines should not replace a provider's professional medical advice based on clinical judgment, or be used in lieu of an Infectious Diseases consultation when necessary. As a result of ongoing research, practice guidelines may from time to time change. The authors of these guidelines have made all attempts to ensure the accuracy based on current information, however, due to ongoing research, users of these guidelines are strongly encouraged to confirm the information contained within them through an independent source.