

Efficacy and Safety of Injectable and Oral Antibiotics in Treating Gonorrhea: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-Analysis

Yang J, Dhital S, Naderer T. J Clin Med. 2019 Dec 11; 8(12):2182.

- Gonorrhea is the second most frequently reported sexually transmitted infectious disease of bacterial origin in the world. Current empiric therapies rely on broad-spectrum antibiotics. However, treatment options are becoming limited due to the rise of drug-resistant gonorrhea.
- Among injectable antibiotic drugs, ceftriaxone had significantly better efficacy than cefuroxime, cephaloridine, kanamycin, penicillin, and spectinomycin.
- As for oral drugs, azithromycin was the most effective compound. There were no significant differences in safety between injectable and oral treatments.
- In the systematic review of randomized controlled trials, it was found that azithromycin and ceftriaxone to be the most effective antibiotics for the treatment of gonorrhea.

This is in line with current guidelines of CDC which recommend a combination therapy of azithromycin and ceftriaxone for the treatment of gonorrhea due to increased antimicrobial resistance.

