CEFOVECIN

Drug Class: Cephalosporins (Third generation)

Spectrum: Cefovecin has broad spectrum activity against various Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria, including staphylococci, Enterobacteriaceae (e.g. *E. coli*) and streptococci. It also has activity against anaerobes. While described as a 3rd generation cephalosporin, it has less Gram negative activity compared to other 3rd generation cephalosporins (e.g. cefotaxime). It is ineffective against enterococci.

Resistance: Methicillin-resistant staphylococci are resistant to cefovecin, as are extended spectrum beta-lactamase producing Gram negative bacteria. Those are the most commonly encountered mechanisms of cefovecin resistance.

Mechanism of Action:

Route of Elimination: Cefovecin is a long acting antimicrobial because of its high protein binding. Therapeutic levels (depending on the bacterium) may be present for 14 days in dogs and 21 days in cats. Elimination is mainly via renal excretion, and most of the drug that is excreted in urine is an active form.

Adverse Effects: Adverse effects appear to be rare. It should be avoided in animals with known cephalosporin allergies.

Contraindications: There are no clear contraindications. While safety in young and pregnant animals has not been established, there is no evidence to suggest this is a concern. Because of its high protein binding, it is possible that it could alter pharmacokinetics of other protein bound drugs, such as NSAIDs.

Common uses: As a broad spectrum, single injection drug, it can be used for various types of infections. However, the spectrum and duration of action are more than is typically required for most infection types. It is useful for situations where compliance with oral administration would be poor, and in such situations, is a reasonable choice for skin or urinary tract infections.

Dosing:

- ***Single 8 mg/kg SQ dose that can be repeated after 14d, if indicated.***

Veterinary Drug Director Category: I (Very High importance)

Approved veterinary products in Canada: Yes. Approved for treatment of skin and urinary tract infections in dogs, and skin infections in cats.