CEPHALEXIN

Drug Class: Cephalosporins (First generation)

Spectrum: As a first generation cephalosporin, cephalexin is most active against Gram positive organisms, and is often used for staphylococcal infections. There is lesser activity against Gram negative bacteria but efficacy may be present against a range of Gram negatives. It possesses good activity against most anaerobes.

Resistance: Methicillin-resistant in staphylococci is the most important resistance concern.

Mechanism of Action: Cephalexin exerts bactericidal activity through inhibition of bacterial cell wall synthesis. As a time dependent antimicrobial, the time above MIC is critical for bacterial killing, so frequent administration is required.

Route of Elimination: Cephalexin is primarily eliminated via renal excretion.

Adverse Effects: Gastrointestinal upset is the most common adverse effect, but adverse effects are uncommon.

Contraindications: There are few contraindications.

Common uses: Cephalexin is most commonly used for treatment of pyoderma, but it can be used for other situations where Gram positives (particularly staphylococci) are of concern.

Dosing:

- ***15-30 mg/kg PO q12h***

Veterinary Drug Director Category: II (High importance)

Approved veterinary products in Canada: Yes.

Additional information: Administration with food can potentially reduce adverse gastrointestinal effects