

EMPIRIC CHOICE

- ✦ Patient is on a non-ICU ward: ceftriaxone 1g iv q24h or amoxicillin-clavulanate 875/125 mg p.o. BID
- ✦ Patient is in the ICU or transferred there as a result of HAP:
 - piperacillin-tazobactam 4.5 g iv q8h
 - Could consider ceftriaxone instead of piperacillin-tazobactam for some patients in whom the risk of *Pseudomonas* is likely low, such as patients who have been on a ward where *Pseudomonas* infections are uncommon or those that have been in the hospital for ≤ 1 week
 - If known to be colonized with MRSA, add vancomycin
 - If known to be colonized with an ESBL, use meropenem 1g iv q8h instead of piperacillin-tazobactam

DURATION

- ✦ 7 days

ALTERNATIVES FOR ALLERGIES TO BETA-LACTAMS (see 1-pager on beta-lactam allergies for risk of cross-reactivity)

- ✦ Patient is on a non-ICU ward: moxifloxacin 400 mg p.o./iv q24h
- ✦ Patient is in the ICU or transferred there as a result of HAP:
 - moxifloxacin 400 mg p.o./iv q24h if infection due to *Pseudomonas* is likely to be low
 - If *Pseudomonas* risk is high: meropenem 1 g iv q8h (cross-reactivity is 1% with penicillin allergy)
 - If known to be colonized with MRSA, add vancomycin

TOP ORGANISMS (what we expect for common organisms)

- ✦ *Staphylococcus aureus*
- ✦ Gram negative aerobic bacilli (*Klebsiella*, *Serratia*, *Pseudomonas*, etc)
- ✦ *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- ✦ *Haemophilus influenzae*

CURRENT RESISTANCE ISSUES

- ✦ Consider the patient's prior antibiotic use and colonization status (ie. ESBLs, MRSA) in making your empiric decision

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST CONSIDERATION

- ✦ piperacillin-tazobactam 4.5 g iv q8h
- ✦ Treat x 10 days

ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC COMMENTS

- ✦ Antimicrobial therapy is not indicated for aspiration pneumonitis (primarily from macro-aspiration from vomiting).
- ✦ Aspiration pneumonia (primarily from swallowing difficulties) does not require the addition of metronidazole as the anaerobes involved are oral anaerobes (ie. *Peptostreptococcus*) which are covered by most beta-lactams