

β-lactam Antibiotics

β-lactam antibiotics are useful and frequently prescribed antimicrobial agents, that share a common structure and mechanism of action. The group include Penicillins, cephalosporins and Carbapenems.

Penicillins consist of Penicillin G and V

Nafcillin → Penicillinase resistant penicillin

Ampicillin → Broad spectrum

Pipercillin → Extended spectrum

↓
highly active against susceptible gram +ve cocci

Cephalosporins → classified by generation.

Carbapenems → Imipenem, Doripenem, Ertapenem & Meropenem

↓
Broadest antimicrobial spectrum

Monobactam & Aztreonam } has gram -ve pattern resembling to Aminoglycosides.

β-lactamase inhibitors → clavulanate

↓
used to extend spectrum of penicillins against β-lactamase prod. organisms.

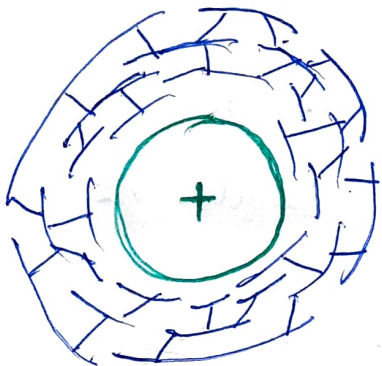
Mechanism of Action

Cell wall of Gram +ve, -ve microorganisms

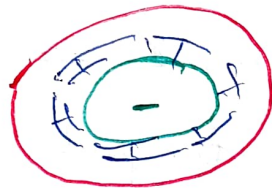
Cell wall :->

* Cell wall is made up of ^{sugar backbones made of glycans.} carbohydrates and cross linked through peptide chains → Peptidoglycan layer

* Cell wall Thicker in gram +ve. (50-100 mol. thick)
Thinner in gram -ve. (1-2 mol thick)



made up of 1 molecule of peptidoglycan



along with peptidoglycan membrane it also has additional membrane a lipid membrane. (pen pores)

↓
unique in nature.

* Penicillin Binding proteins are present in the ^{outside of} cytoplasmic membrane, where β -lactam ring binds / penicillin binds.

gram +ve → Highly porous ∴ PBP are easily available for binding.

gram -ve → lipid membrane → but presence of pen pores (channels)

↓
help in passing of drugs through into the cell.

Cell wall synthesis →

Each Peptidoglycan layer consists of multiple backbones of amino sugars with alternating N-acetylglucosamine (NAG) and N-acetyl muramic acid (NAM)

It involves 30 bacterial enzymes

↓
made of short peptide chains that are cross linked to form polymer lattice

STEP 1 → precursor formation takes place in cytoplasm.

Accumulation of UDPAMPP
[Uridine di phosphate Acetyl muramyl Pentapeptide.]

↓
[PARK nucleotide]

last step in the synthesis of above nucleotide is addition of dipeptide D-alanyl D-alanine.

↓
involves the racemisation of L-alanine and condensation

↑
Catalysed by D-alanyl D-alanine synthase.

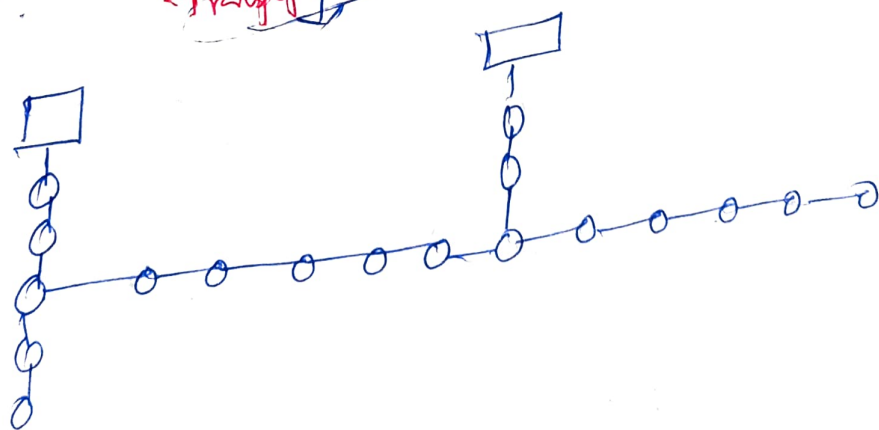
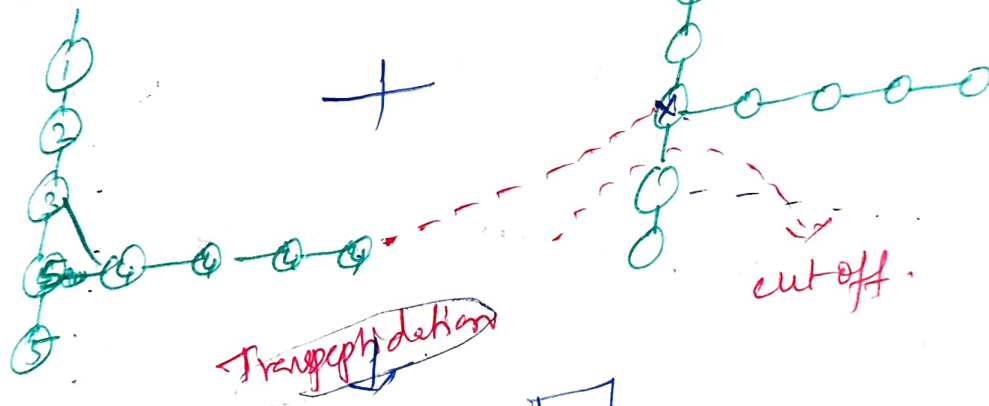
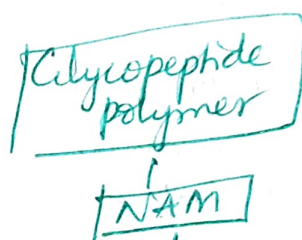
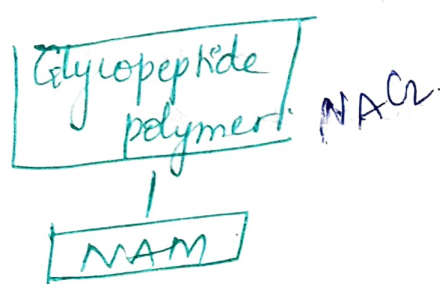
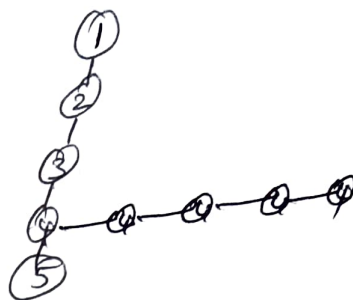
STEP 2:- UDPAMPP and UDP A₂ are linked to form a long polymer with the release of Uridine nucleotides.

STEP 3:- Formation of cross linkage.
NAG, NAM sent out of cytoplasm to form cross linkages. by transpeptidation reaction.

Transpeptidase enzyme is membrane bound and occurs at 5 amino acid residues of NAM.

- ① L-Alanine
- ② D-Glutamate
- ③ L-Lysine
- ④ D-Glycine
- ⑤ D-Alanine.

In case of bacteria
Pentaglycine Bridge.



The terminal glycine attaching 4th & 5th a.a are cutoff.

Penicillins inhibit the enzyme transpeptidase by acylation

Additional targets include PBP's

PBP → Penicillin Binding Protein

↓
mostly all bacteria will have PBP

Eg: *Staphylococcus aureus* → 4 PBP

E. coli → 7 PBP

↓
has high mol. wt PBP and have 2 subforms
1a and 1b

PBP_{1a, 1b} → block
↓
no proper septum
formation
during division

↓
are necessary for
transpeptidation reaction,
& shape of the bacteria.

PBP₂ → block → delayed lysis

PBP₃ → " → formation of long filamentous
bacteria

The mechanism of penicillin can be of
lytic or non lytic mechanism

↓
Breaks balance b/w PBP
mediated peptidoglycan assembly
& murine hydrolase

↓
Autolysis of
bacteria

↓
induces choline
like protein in
bacterial membrane

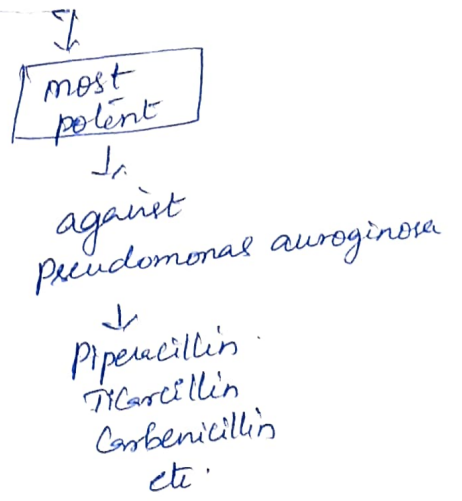
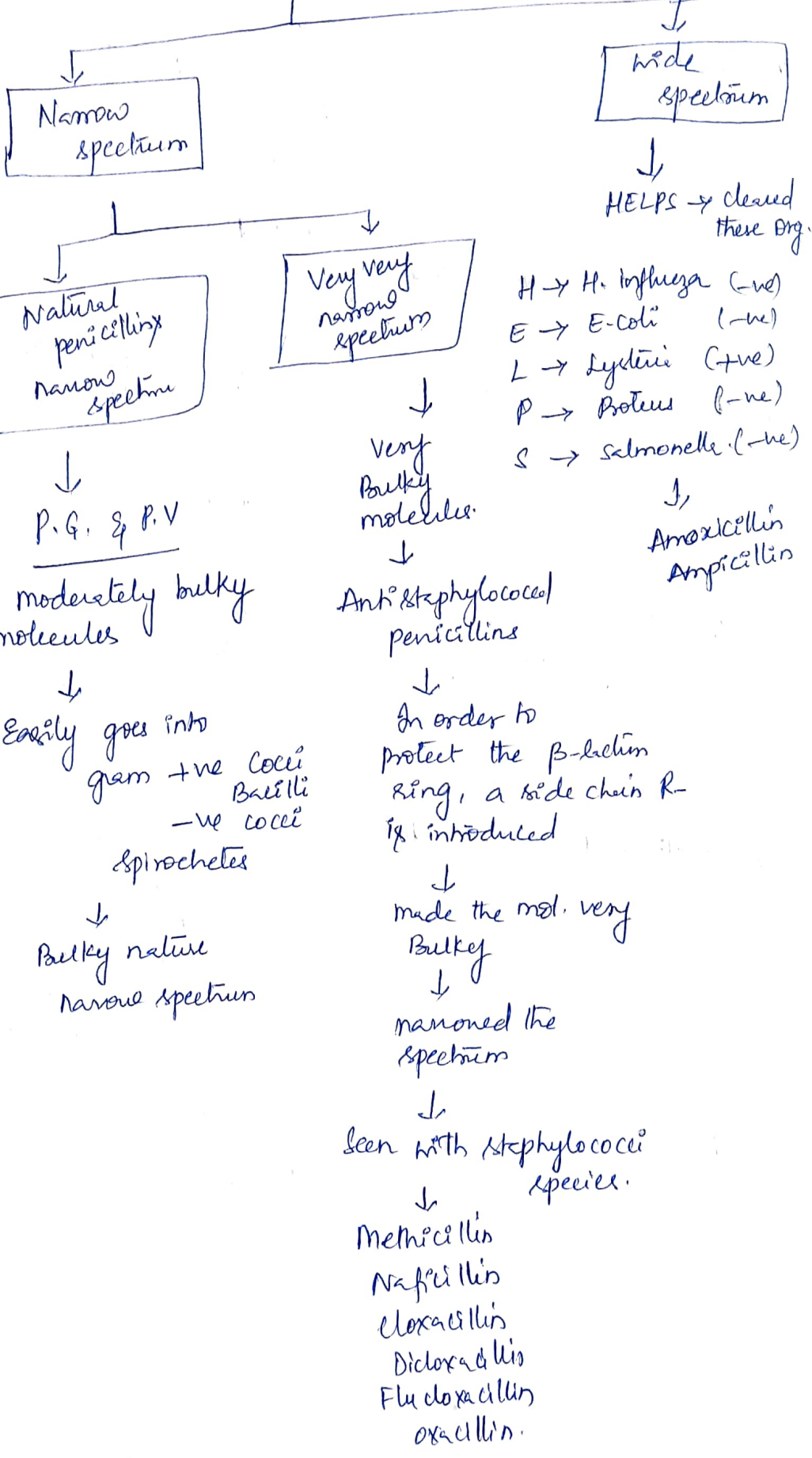
↓
disruption of
membrane potential

↓
Cell is not killed
but reproduction is
stopped.

Classification of Penicillins :->

- I. Natural Penicillins :-> Penicillin G & its Esters
- P.G. (Benzyl penicillin)
 - Procaine P.G.
 - Benzathine P.G.
- II. Semi synthetic penicillins :->
- (a) Acid resistant penicillins -> Phenoxymethylpenicillin (P.V) (Phenoxy methyl penicillin)
Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Phenoxy ethyl penicillin)
- (b) Penicillinase resistant penicillins ->
- Acid labile } Methicillin
 - Acid labile } Nafcillin
 - Acid labile } Cloxacillin
 - Acid labile } Dicloxacillin
 - Acid resistant } Flucloxacillin
- (c) Penicillins effective against both gram +ve & gram -ve organisms ->
- Ampicillin
 - Amoxycillin
 - Ticarcillin
 - Pivampicillin
- (d) Extended spectrum Penicillins ->
- Carbenicillin
 - Ticarcillin
 - Piperacillin
 - Mezlocillin
 - Azlocillin
 - Me cillinam
 - Pivmecillinam
- (e) Penicillins with β -lactamase inhibitors ->
- Amoxycillin - clavulanic acid.
 - Ticarcillin - clavulanic acid.

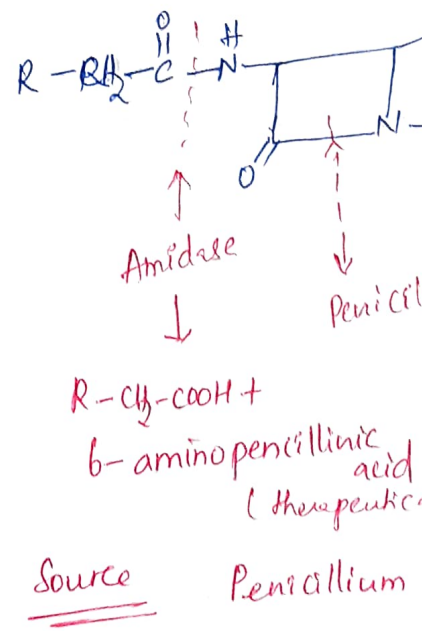
Penicillins



MRSA: methicillin Resistant

The gene encoding such high mol. wt PBP if present lead to MRSA.

Structure of Penicillin :-



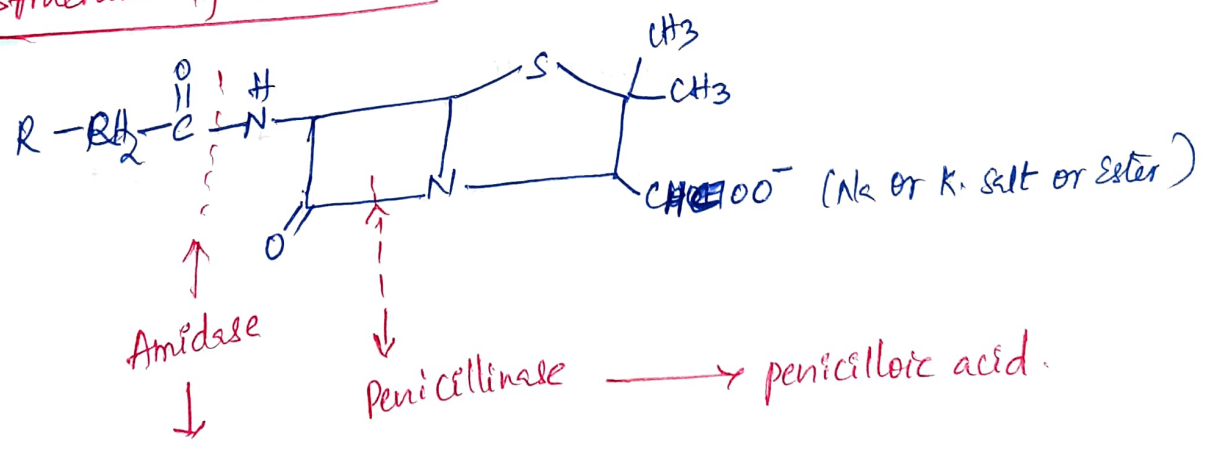
↓
 most potent
 ↓
 against
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
 ↓
 Piperacillin
 Ticarcillin
 Carbenicillin
 etc.

MRSA: methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The gene encoding such high mol. wt PBP if present lead to
 ↓
 MRSA.

↓
 are resistant via acquisition of an additional high mol. wt. PBP with a very low affinity for all β -lactam antibiotics.

Structure of Penicillin →



Source *Penicillium notatum*; *P. chrysogenum*

Development of Resistance :->

Resistance may be due to

- *) Influx is decreased
- *) Enzymes degradation is increased
- *) conformational changes in the binding site
- *) Effective efflux of antibiotic
- *) Increased cell division.

1st → Resistance mainly through development of high mol. wt. PBP (acquired) to resist the binding of penicillin

∴ ↓ influx of drug.

Eg: MRSA.

2nd → Development of penicillinase / β -lactamase enzyme which breaks the β -lactam ring.

↓
produced & transmitted through plasmids.

Eg: Gonococci

low level penicillin resistant

↓ Influx of penicillin

Staphylococci
pneumococci
Bacillus subtilis
H. influenza
E. coli

High level penicillin resistant

By prodⁿ of β -lactamase.

* production of β -lactamase differs in gram +ve & gram -ve bacteria

gram +ve → produced in large quantities.

-ve → " " less "

gram +ve. → β -lactamases diffuses throughout to protect entire colony.

gram -ve → β -lactamase present in b/w lipoprotein & peptidoglycan layer.

→ by 4 levels of penicillins they are made sensitive.

3* → Conformational changes in transpeptidase enzyme or porin channels.

Antibacterial spectrum: →

Mostly effective against gram +ve bacteria.

Cocci → Pneumococci
Streptococci

Staphylococcus aureus → originally sensitive but developed resistance.

gram -ve cocci → N. gonorrhoea
N. meningitidis

} → development of resistance is quick.

Bacilli → B. anthracis
Corynebacterium diphtheriae
Clostridium tetani
C. botulinum.

Spirochetes → T. pallidum

Resistant strains : → Bacterioides fragilis
M. tuberculosis
Rickettsia
Chlamydia

P. Kinetics :->

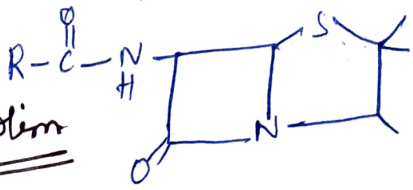
Absorption :->

Penicillin G :-> about 1/3rd of an orally admin. P.G. is absorbed from intestinal tract

oral

Gastric juice pH \rightarrow 2 rapidly destroys the antibiotic.
 \downarrow in acid prodⁿ with aging \rightarrow better absorption of P.G. from GIT.

Meklohim



Alkaline pH \rightarrow

Penicillic acid

\downarrow

penicilloic acid

Acidic pH \downarrow

penicillic acid

\downarrow

penamaldic acid

\downarrow

Penicillamine + Penaldic acid

$\text{CO}_2 \downarrow \text{H}^+$

penilloaldehyde.

\rightarrow orally in geriatrics \rightarrow maximal concⁿ 30-60 min.

digestion of foods may entice absorption

\therefore admin. 30 min before the meal or 2 hrs later after the meal.

oral
P.V

\rightarrow more stable in acidic medium \therefore better absorption in GIT.

plasma concⁿ 5 times greater than P.G.

Penicillins ADME

Parenteral administration of Penicillin G: →

IM injection → Peak concⁿ? within 15-30 min.

$t_{1/2}$ — 30 min

Used as repository preparations

↓
long persistence of penicillin in blood after a suitable IM dose reduces cost, need for repeated injections & local trauma.

P.G. Benzathine — absorbed very slowly from IM depots & produces the longest duration of detectable antibiotic

Distribution: →

- * Widely distributed throughout the body but varies in concⁿ in fluids & tissues.
- * $V_d \approx 0.35 \text{ L/Kg}$
- * 60% of P.G. reversibly bound to albumin
- * distributed in liver, bile, kidney, semen, joint fluid, lymph and intestine.
- * Meninges normal — No penetration in CSF
Meningitis — Penetration in CSF
↓
Concⁿ Vary & unpredictable
5% of plasma

- * Penicillin and other organic acids are secreted rapidly from CSF into bloodstream by an active transport process.
- * Probenecid → ⊗ the active transport process & ↑ the concⁿ of Penicillin in CSF
- Uremic condition → organic acids accumulate in CSF & compete with penicillin for secretion
 - ↓
 - occasionally reaches toxic concⁿ in brain
 - ↓
 - convulsions

Excretion :-

- P.G. → rapidly by kidney, small amounts in bile & other routes.
- 60-90% → eliminated in first one hr. of injection.
- 10% by GFR
- 90% by tubular secretion
- Remaining is metabolised to penicilloic acid.

Probenecid → ↓ the tubular secretions
↓
↑ in plasma levels of P.G.

Doses must be adjusted during dialysis, renal failure & hepatic insufficiency.

Adverse effects

Hypersensitivity Reactions

→ The most common adverse effect reported.

0.7-4% of all treatment courses → Allergic reactions complication

- Maculopapular Rash
 - Urticarial Rash
 - Fever
 - Bronchospasm
 - Vasculitis
 - Serum sickness
- exfoliative dermatitis
Stevens Johnson Syndrome
Anaphylaxis

→ Reactions occur with any dosage form of Penicillin & persist for 1-2 wks or longer after the therapy has been stopped.

→ Penicillins and their breakdown products act as haptens after covalent reaction with proteins.

Minor determinants
other products contribute to 25% of reactions
↓
these products formed *in vivo*

is
most abundant product penicilloyl moiety
(Major determinant moiety)
↓
result in major IgE mediated reactions.

Frequency of formation of these determinants refer to ~~the~~ which antibodies to haptens appear to be formed.

→ Antipenicillin antibiotics → are detectable in virtually all patients who have received the drug and in many who are unknowingly exposed.

Management of Hypersensitivity reactions

- Evaluation of patient history to avoid use of Penicillin
- Skin testing IgE-mediated immediate type responses
- desensitization by increasing doses of penicillin to avoid severe reaction - performed only in intensive care.
1, 5, 10, 100, 1000 units - intradermally
with 60-minute intervals b/w doses.

↓
Well Tolerated Then 10,000 & 50,000 units S.C.
Desensitization is accomplished by the oral admn. of Penicillin

Other Adverse effects

- Bone marrow depression
- Granulocytopenia
- Hepatitis
- Pain at the site of injection.
- P.G., Carbenicillin,
Piperacillin, Ticarcillin } → Defects in Hemostasis
impairment of platelet aggregation
- Lethargy, confusion, twitching, localized seizures
CSF $> 10 \mu\text{g/ml}$
- Rapid IV admn. of 20 million units of P.G.
↓
Hyperkalemia in renal dysfunction patients.

- Procaine P.G. → immediate reaction

↓

dizziness, tinnitus, headache,
hallucinations & sometimes
seizures

↓

Seen in
1 in 200 patients ←

due to rapid liberation of
toxic concⁿ of procaine.

Cell wall of Gram +ve & Gram -ve bacteria

Therapeutic Uses of Penicillin

- * Pneumococcal infections → Penicillin G
- * Pneumococcal pneumonia → for penicillin resistant strains
↓
20-24 million units 3rd generation cephalosporin
of P.G. daily by constant IV infusion
500 mg P.V. every 6 hrs.
therapy contd. for 7-10 days
- * Pneumococcal meningitis → Resistant strains
↓
20-24 million units Vancomycin + 3rd generation cephalosporin.
P.G. By IV infusion Bolus for every 2-3 hrs.
duration of therapy 14 days.
- * Streptococcal infections, Pharyngitis, Scarlet fever
↓
S. pyogenes
orally P.V 500mg every 6 hrs for 10 days.
- * Streptococcal Toxic shock and Necrotizing fasciitis →
Penicillin + clindamycin.
- * Streptococcal pneumonia, Arthritis, Meningitis, Endocarditis
↓
P.G. daily doses 12-20 million units
IV 2-4 weeks. 4 hrs.

* Infections caused by other streptococci.

PG. \rightarrow MIC $> 0.1 \mu\text{g/ml}$

daily dose of 12-20 million units

IV. for 2 wks.

S. endocarditis

for 4 weeks.

In combo with gentamicin 1mg/kg every 8hrs.

(or)

P.G. or 12g Ampicillin daily I.V. with low dose of gentamicin.

for 6 wks.

* Anaerobes \rightarrow most of them are sensitive to P.G. except *B. fragilis*.

pulmonary & periodontal infections

\rightarrow P.G. \rightarrow more effective than P.G. if clindamycin.

mild to moderate infection \rightarrow PG / PV 4,000,000 units (250mg) Q.i.d.

more severe \rightarrow 12-20 million units PG. IV.

Brain abscess \rightarrow PG. 20 million units/day + metronidazole or chloramphenicol.

* Staphylococcal infections \rightarrow

Vast majority of ^{Staphylo. species} infections are penicillinase producing strains.

Hospital acquired MRSA \rightarrow resistant to P.G., cephalosporins, etc.

\therefore Vancomycin, linezolid, quinupristin, dalfopristin, daptomycin. Can be given.

Community acquired MRSA \rightarrow Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, doxycycline, clindamycin.

* Meningococcal infections

↓
P.G. drug of choice.

* Gonococcal infections

↓
gradually have become resistant to P.G. & no longer used until the disease is penicillin sensitive.

uncomplicated gonococcal urethritis → single I.M.
250mg
Ceftriaxone

Gonococcal arthritis, skin lesions etc → Ceftriaxone 1g daily
IM / IV for
7-10 days.

* Syphilis → used in 1^o, 2^o & latent syphilis < Iyrodurktion

P.G. procaine → 2.4 million units per day I.M. for
10 days

+ probenecid → 1.0 g/day orally

~~with 1-3 weekly~~

or (or)
P.G. Benzathine → 2.4 million units IM for 1-3 wks.

latent syphilis, neurosyphilis etc → 20 million units
P.G. daily for 10 days

Infants with congenital syphilis → P.G. aqueous 50,000 units/kg
daily in 2 divided doses

or
Proline P.G. in a single daily dose
50,000 units/kg.

* Actinomycosis → P.G. drug of choice.

10-20 million units I.V. per day for 6 weeks.

may continue for 2-3 months with oral P.V. 500mg
q.i.d.

* Diphtheria : → P.G. eliminates the carrier state.
2-3 million units / day in divided doses for
10-12 days

(or)
single daily injection of P.G. procaine

* Anthrax : → gradually resistant.
But sensitive strains P.G. 12-20 million units per day

* Clostridial infections : →

↓
choice of drug is P.G. especially gas gangrene
↓
12-20 million units per day
I.V. as an adjunct to
antitoxin

* Fusospirochetel infections : →

Gingivostomatitis → 500 mg P.V. given for
every 6 hrs. for
several days till
clear of disease.

* Rat-Bite fever : →

↓
Caused by *Spirillum minor*
& *Streptobacillus moniliformis*

↓
12-15 million units parenterally
for 3-4 wks.

* Listeria → P.G. + Ampicillin / gentamicin (in immune sensitive).
↓
1-2g IV / 4 hrs.
15-20 million units / day / wks.
duration is 4 wks.

* Lyme disease :->

Tetracycline drug of choice for early disease.

Americillin - 500mg / t.i.d. - 21 days.

Severe -> 3rd Gener. Cephalo - ~~OL~~

20 million units P.Q. daily for 10-14 days.