

SKIN INFECTION

(ISS MED/3A - ALL/FIN)

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NOTE

Contact Surgeon before giving any medication marked with an asterisk. In an emergency or during Loss of Signal, begin appropriate treatment; then call Surgeon as soon as possible.

SIGNS

Skin is red, warm, tender

Pus may be seen coming out of localized point

TREATMENT

1. Contact Surgeon and photodocument the infection every 24 hours.
2. Antibiotics

DRUG HELP

1. Many skin infections will heal well with topical ointment alone. Consult with Surgeon before beginning treatment.
2. Duricef works well for skin infections, and it is preferred to use this agent first unless there is known sensitivity or allergy to this or related medications. Erythromycin, Zithromax, Tarivid, and Ciprolet also work well for skin infections. Selection will be based on availability and known sensitivities. Surgeon will advise.
3. Local skin care will be important along with antibiotic treatment. Surgeon will advise.

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Duricef (Cefadroxil) (P1-A18,19)

Dose: 1 capsule every 12 hours for 10 days

WARNING

Do not use if there is a history of Penicillin or Cephalosporin allergy.

Possible side effects

Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, rash

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Zithromax (Azithromycin) (P1-B7)

Dose: 2 capsules 1st day, followed by 1 capsule 1 time/day for 4 days

Possible side effects

Diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting

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Erythromycin - Broad-spectrum oral antibiotic

Dose: 2-3 tablets 4 times/day (1 hour before eating, or 2-3 hours after eating)

Possible side effects

Occasional stomach upset, nausea, vomiting

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Tarivid (Ofloxacin) - Oral antibiotic

Dose: 1 tablet 1 to 2 times/day for 7 days

Possible side effects

Nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, insomnia, allergic reactions

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Ciprolet (Ciprofloxacin) - Oral antibiotic

Dose: 1 tablet 2 times/day for 7 days

Possible side effects

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain

3. Topical Ointments

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Bactroban (Mupirocin) (P4-B1) - Topical ointment for skin infection

Dose: Apply thinly to affected area once/day until skin is healed.

Possible side effects

Skin burning, itching

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— Erythromycin Ointment - Topical ointment for skin infection

Dose: Apply thinly to affected area 3 times/day until skin is healed

Possible side effects

Allergic skin reactions