



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
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CLINICAL ADVISORY

Dear Clinician:

The Department of Public Health and Social Services would like to provide an important update for the medical providers on Guam who diagnose and treat gonorrheal infections.

Because of concerns about emerging antimicrobial resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to cephalosporin antibiotics, new recommendations regarding gonorrhea treatment have been released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in their 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines.

The three key changes are:

1. Ceftriaxone (Rocephin®) by intramuscular (IM) injection is now the preferred antimicrobial agent for uncomplicated gonococcal infections of the cervix, urethra, rectum, and pharynx.
2. The dose of ceftriaxone for uncomplicated anogenital and pharyngeal gonococcal infections has been increased from 125 mg IM to 250 mg IM.
3. Dual antibiotic therapy with a cephalosporin (Ceftriaxone or Suprax) plus azithromycin or doxycycline is recommended for all suspected and confirmed cases of gonorrhea regardless of chlamydia test result.

Dual Therapy for Gonococcal and Chlamydial Infections

Patients infected with *N. gonorrhoeae* frequently are coinfecting with *C. trachomatis*; this finding has led to the recommendation that patients treated for gonococcal infection also be treated routinely with a regimen that is effective against uncomplicated genital *C. trachomatis* infection. Because most gonococci in the United States are susceptible to doxycycline and azithromycin, routine co-treatment might also hinder the development of antimicrobial-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae*.

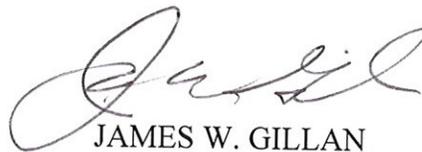
Recommended regimen for treatment of uncomplicated gonococcal infections of the cervix, urethra, rectum, and pharynx:

Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose	PLUS	Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose OR Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days
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Though cefixime (Suprax) 400 mg orally in a single dose is included as a treatment option for gonorrhea in the 2010 CDC Guidelines, it does not provide as high nor as sustained a bactericidal level as that provided by ceftriaxone 250 mg. Furthermore, cefixime and other oral cephalosporins have limited efficacy for treating gonococcal infections of the pharynx. Therefore, providers on Guam should make every effort to **provide ceftriaxone 250 mg IM as their first-line treatment regimen for gonorrhea.**

For questions about gonorrhea treatment or clinical management of other STDs, please visit **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in their 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines**, available online at <http://cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>.

For questions regarding STDs on Guam please call 735-7137, 735-7166 or 735-7149.



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