

Galway: GAPP - Galway Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy / Guidelines (GAPP): Bacterial Endocarditis

Bacterial Endocarditis

1. The following is intended primarily to provide **initial short-term guidance** on empiric therapy of seriously ill patients and those with prosthetic valves.
2. **Immediate consultation** on the next day **with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases** is recommended in **all cases** of suspected endocarditis.
3. In those with **sub-acute** presentation of suspected endocarditis, with a native valve and who are clinically stable at presentation it is often preferable to send blood cultures (as below) and to **withhold antibiotics pending consultation** and culture results.
4. In all but the most profoundly ill patients **take 3 sets of blood cultures** (10ml into each of two bottles for each set) **BEFORE** any antibiotics are given. If the patient is seriously ill the interval between cultures can be as short as 20 or 30 minutes.

| Empiric Antibiotics for Bacterial Endocarditis | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Infection | 1 st Line Antibiotics | Penicillin allergy: immediate or severe delayed reaction | Comment |
| | | See penicillin hypersensitivity section for further information | |
| Bacterial Endocarditis | Native Valve or Prosthetic valve Vancomycin IV infusion, dose per GAPP App calculator. See footnote* re monitoring. + Gentamicin IV 1mg/kg (maximum 80mg) every 12 hours. See footnote* re monitoring + CefTRIAxone IV 2g every 24 hours | Native Valve or Prosthetic valve Vancomycin IV infusion, dose per GAPP App calculator. See footnote* re monitoring. + Gentamicin IV 1mg/kg (maximum 80mg) every 12 hours. See footnote* re monitoring + Ciprofloxacin PO 500mg every 12 hours (IV 400mg every 12 hours if NPO) | Once culture and sensitivity results are available direct antibiotic therapy accordingly in discussion with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases. Duration as advised by Microbiology or Infectious Diseases. |
| * For advice on monitoring see Gentamicin & Vancomycin Dosing & Monitoring section. | | | |

Refs:

1. Gould et al. BSAC Guidelines for the diagnosis and antibiotic treatment of endocarditis in adults. [Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy 2012;67:269-289](#)
2. Baddour et al. AHA Infective Endocarditis: Diagnosis, Antimicrobial Therapy, and Management of Complications. [Circulation 2015;132:1435-1486](#)
3. Delgado et al. ESC Guidelines for the management of endocarditis: Developed by the task force on the management of endocarditis of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Endorsed by the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM). *European Heart Journal*, 2023 ; 44: 3948–4042