

## Pediatric Guidelines: Head and Neck Infections - Mastoiditis

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*Need for drainage/source control of head and neck infections should be evaluated carefully in consultation with Pediatric Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. If initial non-operative management is chosen, a narrow spectrum regimen (i.e. without vancomycin) is encouraged to facilitate transition to oral therapy.*

*ID consultation is recommended for head and neck infections occurring in immunocompromised patients, and for those with atypical features, chronic course, or lack of response to first line therapy.*

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| Condition  | Major Pathogens                 | First Choice Therapy   | Alternative Therapy                                    | Comments   |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Mastoiditis - acute<br>(<1 month duration),<br>immunocompetent patient | <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> | Ampicillin-sulbactam (Unasyn)<br>50mg/kg/dose ampicillin IV<br>q6h (max 2g ampicillin/dose)  |  | OHNS consult<br>recommended  |
|  | Group A<br>streptococcus        | ADD Vancomycin<br>15mg/kg/dose IV q6-8h (initial<br>max 1g/dose) for severe<br>infection with adjacent<br>complications, or suspicion of<br>MRSA | <b>Severe beta<br/>lactam allergy</b> <sup>[1]</sup> : | Consider ID consult  |
|  | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>    |  | Consult ID/ASP   | For intra-cranial<br>extension, refer to<br><a href="#">Brain Abscess</a> <sup>[2]</sup><br>section for empiric<br>therapy<br><br>Therapy may be<br>tailored based on<br>cultures from I&D |

|  |                                   |  |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Mastoiditis - chronic<br><br>(>= 1 month duration,<br>usually non-intact tympanic<br>membrane),<br>immunocompetent patient | <i>Pseudomonas<br/>aeruginosa</i> | Piperacillin-tazobactam<br>(Zosyn) 100mg/kg/dose<br>piperacillin IV q6h (max 4g<br>piperacillin/dose)  | <b>Severe beta<br/>lactam allergy</b> <sup>[1]</sup> :<br><br>Consult ID/ASP | OHNS and ID<br>consults<br>recommended<br><br>Therapy may be<br>tailored based on<br>cultures from I&D |
|  | <i>Staphylococcus<br/>aureus</i>  | AND Ofloxacin Otic Solution<br>10 drops to affected ear BID  |  |  |
|  | Anaerobes                         | ADD Vancomycin<br>15mg/kg/dose IV q6-8h (initial<br>max 1g/dose) for severe<br>infection with adjacent<br>complications, or suspicion of<br>MRSA |  |  |

*These are guidelines only and not intended to replace clinical judgment. Modification of therapy may be indicated based on patient comorbidities, previous antibiotic therapy or infection history. Doses provided are usual doses but may require modification based on patient age or comorbid conditions. Refer to [Pediatric Antimicrobial Dosing Guideline](#)<sup>[3]</sup> for further guidance on dosing in children, and [Neonatal Dosing Guideline](#)<sup>[4]</sup> for infants < 1 month of age. Consult a pediatric pharmacist for individualized renal or hepatic dose adjustment. For additional guidance, please contact Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ID) or the Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP).*

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://idmp.ucsf.edu/pediatric-guidelines-assessment-antibiotic-allergies>
- [2] <http://idmp.ucsf.edu/pediatric-guidelines-cns-infections-brain-abscess>
- [3] <http://idmp.ucsf.edu/pediatric-antimicrobial-dosing-benioff-childrens-hospital>
- [4] <http://idmp.ucsf.edu/neonatal-antimicrobial-dosing-benioff-childrens-hospital-san-francisco>