



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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Larry Meredith, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, M.D., MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

899 Northgate Drive
Suite 104
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 4163 T
415 473 2326 F
415 473 3232 TTY
www.marincounty.org/hhs

Gonorrhea

The California Department of Public Health's STD Control Branch has recently alerted local Public Health Departments regarding the practice of some health care providers of treating gonorrhea with ceftriaxone mono-drug therapy.

Given the risk of decreasing susceptibility of gonorrhea to cephalosporin antibiotic and in order to prevent the risk of emerging drug resistance, this is a reminder that uncomplicated gonorrhea or suspect gonorrhea must be treated with

BOTH
Ceftriaxone 250mg IM
AND either
Azithromycin 1 gm orally in a single dose,
or
Doxycycline 100mg orally, twice a day for seven days.

A single drug regimen is not adequate. Current CDC guidelines recommend dual antibiotic therapy administered concurrently to both improve treatment efficacy and to prevent the emergence of antibiotic drug resistance.

Patients who were inadequately treated previously do not need to be re-treated, but may benefit from a test of cure (TOC) if treatment failure is suspected. Ideally, TOC should be performed using culture.

For additional information on this treatment and its rationale please go to:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6131a3.htm

For California recommendations on performing Tests of Cure (TOC) please go to:
www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/Guidelines/Pages/CAGuidelinesGonorrheaTxFailure.aspx

Thank you,

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH
Acting Deputy Health Officer
Marin County Department of Health and Human Services