

WILL ORAL ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY BE EFFECTIVE?

Bioavailability of oral antibiotics

Antibiotics that have EXCELLENT oral bioavailability (>90%)		*Antibiotics that have HIGH oral bioavailability (>70%)	Antibiotics that have LOWER oral bioavailability (≤60%)
Co-trimoxazole	~100%	Amoxicillin	~70%
Doxycycline	~93%	Ciprofloxacin *	~70-80%
Levofloxacin*	~100%	Flucloxacillin	~79%
Linezolid*	~100%		
Metronidazole*	~100%		
Trimethoprim	~100%		
Given orally these antibiotics give similar drug exposure to when administered IV		Given orally these antibiotics give less drug exposure than when administered IV but still achieve high serum concentrations.	
*METRONIDAZOLE, LINEZOLID and LEVOFLOXACIN should be given orally unless the oral route is contra-indicated		*CIPROFLOXACIN should only be given by the oral route unless unable to swallow	*CLARITHROMYCIN does have low bioavailability BUT has an active metabolite and excellent penetration into pulmonary tissue so oral clarithromycin is considered equivalent to IV

Reference:

Hospital Antibiotic Review Programme (HARP) Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group November 2019