

Example 4.13 Sharp Coronado Hospital and Villa Long Term Care Skin and Soft Tissue (SSTI) Treatment Algorithm

Sharp Coronado LTC Skin & Soft Tissue Infection (SSTI) Treatment Algorithm*		April 7, 2016
Purulent cellulitis	Treatment	Comments
Mild purulent cellulitis	Incision & drainage (I & D) only	
Moderate purulent cellulitis	Doxycycline + I & D/culture	If wound culture negative for MRSA, de-escalate to cephalexin
Severe purulent cellulitis	Vancomycin IV + I & D/culture	If wound culture negative for MRSA, de-escalate to cefazolin
Non-purulent cellulitis	Treatment	Comments
Mild non-purulent cellulitis	Cephalexin	
Moderate non-purulent cellulitis	Cefazolin	
Mild-mod non-purulent cellulitis w/severe pcn allergy	Clindamycin po/FT	IVPB Clindamycin if po/FT not tolerated
Severe non-purulent cellulitis	cefazolin + clindamycin + culture	Consider transfer to acute care for emergent surgical inspection/debridement; r/o necrotizing process

Definitions:

Purulent Cellulitis:

Mild: furuncle, carbuncle or abscess w/o systemic signs of infection

Moderate: purulent infection with systemic signs of infection

Severe: patients who have failed I & D + oral antibiotics, or those with systemic signs of infection such as T >38°C, tachycardia (HR >90 beats per minute), tachypnea (RR >24) or abnormal wbc (>12 000 or <400 cells/μL), or immunocompromised patients

Non-purulent Cellulitis:

Mild: typical cellulitis/erysipelas with no focus of purulence

Moderate: typical cellulitis/erysipelas with systemic signs of infection

Severe: patients who have failed oral antibiotic treatment or those with systemic signs of infection (as defined above under purulent infection), or those who are immunocompromised, or those with clinical signs of deeper infection such as bullae, skin sloughing, hypotension, or evidence of organ dysfunction.

**Diabetic Foot Infection: Treatment is not included in this guideline. Causative organisms may be polymicrobial. Please consider ID consult.*

Reference:

Stevens, D, Bisno, A, Chambers, H, et. al. Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Skin and Soft Tissue Infections: 2014 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA Practice Guidelines for SSTIs). Clin Infect Dis 2014, Jul 15;59(2):147-59

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