

Tobramycin*

Class: Aminoglycoside

Overview

Tobramycin is an extended spectrum aminoglycoside that became available in 1968. This antimicrobial is bactericidal. Tobramycin, along with gentamicin and amikacin, is one of the most common aminoglycosides used in children.

Resistance

See also the discussion of resistance in the general overview of *Aminoglycosides*.

Effectiveness

Tobramycin is considered effective against aerobic Gram-negative organisms and some Gram-positive organisms and is the aminoglycoside that is most effective against *Acinetobacter* species and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, including strains of *P. aeruginosa* that may be resistant to gentamicin. As with gentamicin, tobramycin used in combination with broad spectrum β -lactams is a mainstay of therapy in intensive care units. Tobramycin is combined with first generation cephalosporins in therapy for severely infected open fractures and wounds.

***References available by request. Call the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section, Office of Public Health, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (504-219-4563)**