

NHS TAYSIDE

Colorectal Surgery

Policy for the Use of Pre-operative Oral Antibiotics Prior to Elective Colorectal Surgery

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Background

The use of oral antibiotics such as neomycin and metronidazole, in addition to prophylactic intravenous antibiotics, has been shown to reduce the risk of surgical site infections following colorectal surgery. A meta-analysis concluded that oral antibiotic prophylaxis in combination with mechanical bowel preparation and intravenous antibiotics was superior to our current practice of mechanical bowel preparation and intravenous antibiotic prophylaxis alone in reducing surgical site infections after elective colorectal surgery. This treatment approach was also associated with significantly lower rates of anastomotic leak, ileus, reoperation, length of stay, readmission and mortality (1).

Protocol

Elective colorectal surgical patients deemed suitable by their consultant are to take oral neomycin 1g and metronidazole 400mg at 3pm, 4pm and 10pm on the day prior to surgery. All patients must also receive bowel preparation in line with current NHS Tayside policy.

Neomycin and metronidazole will be prescribed at the clinic appointment prior to surgery or at the time the patient is to be booked in for surgery. The completed prescription (see below) should be taken to hospital pharmacy where the medicines will be supplied. The patient will then initiate the therapy the day prior to surgery as instructed.

Reference

1. McSorley S.T., Steele C.W., McMahon A.J. Meta-analysis of oral antibiotics, in combination with preoperative intravenous antibiotics and mechanical bowel preparation the day before surgery, compared with intravenous antibiotics and mechanical bowel preparation alone to reduce surgical-site infections in elective colorectal surgery. *BJS Open* [Internet]. 01 Aug 2018 2(4):185-194. <https://bjssjournals-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.knowledge.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1002/bjs5.68>

NHS Tayside

Patient Name:

Address:

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CHI:

Dear hospital pharmacy, please supply:

Medication	Directions
Neomycin 500mg tablets x6	Take TWO tablets at 3pm, 4pm and 10pm the day before surgery
Metronidazole 400mg tablets x3	Take ONE tablet at 3pm, 4pm and 10pm the day before surgery

Prescriber name:

Signature:

Bleep number:

Date:

For pharmacy use only

Professional check by:

Dispensed by:

Checked by:

Date: