

Antibiotic Class

Beta-lactams

(penicillins, cephalosporins, monobactams, carbapenems)

Pregnancy category* B

Allergic Reactions

Anaphylaxis, urticaria, rash, fever, serum sickness; hepatitis, nephritis, anemia, thrombocytopenia

Cross-reactivity between penicillins and cephalosporins is 5%; little cross-reactivity between cephalosporin and [aztreonam](#) or imipenem

Dose-Related Effects

Diarrhea (Augmentin), biliary sludging ([ceftriaxone](#)); phlebitis; seizures (imipenem, penicillin G); anti-platelet effects and hemolytic anemia; decreased [vitamin K](#) synthesis and [disulfiram](#) reaction ([cefotetan](#)); nausea, hypotension (rapid infusion of imipenem).

Aminoglycosides

Pregnancy category C

Rare

Nephrotoxicity: incidence 10–15%, usually reversible

Ototoxicity: incidence 1–5%, causes deafness and/or dizziness; toxicity is both dose- and duration-related

Macrolides

Pregnancy category B

([clarithromycin](#) = C)

Cholestatic jaundice: associated with IV [erythromycin](#)

GI toxicity: nausea, vomiting diarrhea, cramping—mostly with [erythromycin](#)

Clindamycin

Pregnancy category B

Rash

Diarrhea—most common adverse effect; pseudomembranous colitis

Tetracyclines

Pregnancy category D

Rash, anaphylaxis, urticaria, fever, hepatitis

Nausea, diarrhea; increase in BUN; deposits and discolors teeth and bone (avoid in pediatrics); dizziness and vertigo ([minocycline](#))

Vancomycin

Pregnancy category C

Rash (rare)

Infusion-related reactions: phlebitis, "red-person syndrome" from rapid fusions—give 1 g over 60 min; oto- and nephrotoxicity is rare with current formulations

Fluoroquinolones

Pregnancy category C

Rare

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; confusion, headache, seizures; tendonitis and tendon rupture; prolonged QT interval

Sulfonamides

Pregnancy category X

Rash, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, exfoliative dermatitis (more common in AIDS); hepatitis; bone marrow suppression

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; crystalluria (doses taken with insufficient fluids)