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Source
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Abstract
Secnidazole is structurally related to the commonly used 5-nitroimidazoles metronidazole and tinidazole. These drugs share a common spectrum of activity against anaerobic microorganisms and they appear particularly effective in the treatment of amoebiasis, giardiasis, trichomoniasis and bacterial vaginosis. Secnidazole is rapidly and completely absorbed after oral administration and has a longer terminal elimination half-life (approximately 17 to 29 hours) than commonly used drugs in this class. In patients with intestinal amoebiasis or giardiasis, clinical or parasitological cure rates of 80 to 100% are achieved after treatment with a single dose of secnidazole 2g (30 mg/kg in children), similar to the response rates achieved with multiple dosage regimens of metronidazole or tinidazole. Patients with hepatic amoebiasis appears to respond well to 5- to 7-day therapy with secnidazole, but the efficacy of this drug regimen requires further evaluation in larger numbers of patients. After administration of a single dose of secnidazole, parasitological eradication was achieved in approximately 92 to 100% of patients with urogenital trichomoniasis. Patients with bacteria vaginosis respond at least as well to a single dose of secnidazole as to single-dose tinidazole, or single- or 7-day treatment with metronidazole; clinical improvement and/or microbiological evidence of cure was attained in approximately 59 to 96% of patients. In the clinical trials reviewed, secnidazole was well tolerated; most adverse events were gastrointestinal in nature and did not require treatment intervention or withdrawal from therapy. In summary, available evidence suggests that secnidazole is as efficacious as other 5-nitroimidazole drugs in the treatment of protozoal infections and bacterial vaginosis. The convenience and ease of administration associated with single-dose therapy, combined with a good tolerability profile, make secnidazole a suitable option to other single-dose treatments and an attractive alternative to multiple dosage regimens with other drugs in this class.

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