

Amikacin

Class: Aminoglycoside*

Overview

Amikacin is an extended spectrum aminoglycoside that became available in 1972. Amikacin is bactericidal. Along with gentamicin and tobramycin, 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

Amikacin is considered effective against aerobic Gram-negative organisms, some Gram-positive organisms and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Amikacin is also sometimes effective against gentamicin resistant Gram-negative bacilli, such as *Serratia* and *Providencia* species. This drug is used in the initial therapy of pediatric tuberculosis and is a useful tool in therapy for non-tuberculous mycobacteria and infections caused by *Nocardia* species.

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