

A Retrospective Study Assessing the Spectrum of Coverage Necessary for Diabetic Foot Infections

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Abstract

Introduction: Diabetic foot infections require polymicrobial coverage in most instances, and current guidelines detail appropriate empiric therapy selection. The objective of this study is to assess the appropriateness of empiric therapy for diabetic foot infection patients.

Methods: This was a retrospective chart review of diabetic foot infection patients from Anderson Hospital and Community Hospital of Staunton from January 2024 to June 2025.

Results: Out of 77 patients reviewed, 49 patients received inappropriate antibiotic therapy. The most common mistake was addition of unnecessary anaerobic coverage. Hospitalists and ER providers alike frequently made this mistake when using an institutionally-approved order set.

Conclusion: We recommend changing the skin and soft tissue order set to remove anaerobic coverage as a first line option for diabetic foot infection treatment.