

Furazolidone in Uncomplicated Enteric Fever

Bairwa *et al.* reported the efficacy of a combination of chloramphenicol and furazolidone in patients with enteric fever(1). Our experience shows that furazolidone alone is a useful drug for patients with enteric fever.

We did a prospective study, during 1992, on 125 patients of Widal positive enteric fever. The first line of therapy was furazolidone alone except in cases where the general condition of the patient did not allow oral therapy. Sixty per cent patients responded to furazolidone, 30% responded to chloramphenicol and 10% needed other drugs either singly or in combination. Only 4% or patients were treated with ciprofloxacin. There was no difference in the duration of response to treatment or

duration of hospital stay with any of the drugs used. The cost of therapy was very low in the furazolidone treated group. Chloramphenicol and fluoroquinolones are associated with significant side effects and their use in children is often restricted. We are of opinion that furazolidone should be used in the initial treatment of uncomplicated cases of enteric fever. There is no rationale in combining chloramphenicol with furazolidone since there is no synergism between the two drugs.

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REFERENCE

1. Bairwa A, Meena KC, Gupta M. Chloramphenicol-furazolidone combination in enteric fever. *Indian Pediatr* 1995, 32:107-108.