

# Ertapenem

Ertapenem is a carbapenem antibiotic. It has *in vitro* activity against many gram-negative organisms including those that produce extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL), but it does not have activity against *Pseudomonas* or *Acinetobacter*. Its anaerobic and gram-positive activity is similar to that of other carbapenems, except that it does not active against *Enterococcus*.

## Acceptable uses

- Mild to moderate intra-abdominal infections (biliary tract infections, diverticulitis, secondary peritonitis/GI perforation)
- Moderate diabetic foot infections
- Moderate surgical-site infections following contaminated procedures
- Urinary tract infections caused by ESBL-producing organisms
- Pyelonephritis due to ESBL-producing organisms
- Home-going therapy for patients with mixed (polymicrobial) infections caused by susceptible organisms

## Unacceptable uses

- Infections in which *Pseudomonas* or *Acinetobacter* is suspected

## Dose

- 1 gm IV q24h, must adjust for renal function and dialysis (see Table)

## Toxicity

- Diarrhea, nausea, headache, phlebitis/thrombophlebitis