

Rational antimicrobial combinations

- Combinations may be useful if there is a mixed infection – e.g. an aminoglycoside (Gram-negative spectrum) with clindamycin (anaerobic spectrum).
- Synergism is described for some combinations – e.g. aminoglycosides combined with penicillins or sulphonamides combined with diaminopyrimidines.
- Combinations may be indicated for agents where resistance develops rapidly, so that rapid bacterial killing is desirable – e.g. rifampin combined with a macrolide such as erythromycin, clarithromycin or azithromycin (in accordance with the prescribing cascade).