



Role of Preoperative Prophylaxis Antibiotics in Fracture Mandible

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MANDIBLE fractures represent one of the most common facial injuries and represent an important proportion of the acute work in a maxillofacial unit in the hospitals. Usage of prophylactic broad- spectrum antibiotics in the management of mandible fractures is regarded mandatory and obligatory due to its prone to cervical necrotizing fasciitis and contaminated infection with the bacterial normal flora in the mouth. It is routinely used to decrease risk of infection and decrease stay in hospital. The choice of the antibiotics, dose, duration, and resistance is differed and should be an evidence-based guideline for prescription these drugs.

Keywords: Mandible, fracture, antibiotics.

1. Introduction

Fractures of the mandible is the most common fractures more affecting male patients during the 3rd decade of life after social violence, motorized vehicle crash, road traffic accident, athletes, and victims of assault which represent a great challenge due to possible compromise the airway passages and infection (**Ghodke MH et al, 2013, Canas M et al 2023**). There are many types of mandibular fracture like simple (closed or linear involved condyle, subcondylar, ramus, coronoid process, edentulous body, angle, body, parasymphysis, and symphysis), compound, and comminuted (**Mahdi, A.G.M. and Ali, I.A.A. 2013**). The treatment goal is to achieve preinjury occlusion and facial appearance, and this can be done via a closed reduction and maxillomandibular fixation or open reduction and fixation with or without maxillomandibular fixation (**Kidwai SM, and Lu GN. 2022**). The use of prophylaxis antibiotics in mandibular fracture is important and depends on type of the fracture and risk of contamination and infection especially in open fracture due to road traffic accident or penetrating injury (**Hamilton JM et al. 2023**). Antibiotics described before operative fixation and for 1-7 days after operation and sometimes for ten days in immunocompromised patients (**Oksa M et al. 2022**). The most common types of antibiotics used are broad spectrum that involved Gram positive and Gram negative like third generation Cephalexin, Clindamycin and Penicillin (**Kyzas PA .2011**).

2. Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Mandibular Fractures: An Evidence-Based Perspective

Milestone researches done in previous years (1970s and 1980s) showed using prophylactic antibiotics is a standard method in fracture mandible (**Gerlach KL, and Pape HD 1988**). Later on, in the 21st century, using prophylaxis antibiotic became mandatory and routinely used preoperatively based on a lack of strong evidence-based prescription compared with experience based clinical practice (**Mundinger GS, et al. 2015**). Despite that, some surgeons still routinely prescribed antibiotics regardless the fracture type (**Habib AM et al.2019**). This discordance and differences between recommendations and clinical practices showed the need for evidence based about prophylactic use of antibiotics in mandible management.

Each clinical decision in medicine should base on two most important principles of subjective experience, skills, and evidence-based practices. So, the scientific wisdom is the surgeon's experience that build the basis for any hypothesis and the academic community should validate and confirm these medical hypotheses with well studies and researches and compare these results with current clinical practice.

The implications of an evidence-guided treatment for mandibular fractures with open reduction and internal fixation with prophylaxis antibiotics are clear through best care to the patients, reducing complications like (osteomyelitis, nonunion of the bone, malocclusion of the mouth , and infections), increasing patient satisfaction, and minimizing hospital stay, despite cost from the treatment of this type of injury (**Andreasen JO et al.2008, Schmidt BL et al.2000**). The definition of Pre-operative antibiotics is administration of antibiotics more than

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one hour before operation while prophylactic antibiotics were those administered for more than twenty -four hours without a predictable infection (**Forrester JD *et al.* 2021**).

Usage antibiotics prophylactically in the treatment of mandible fractures is common practice in maxillofacial unit due to presence of different microbiota near the site of mandibular injury and the proximity of fracture to the gingiva and periodontal tissue that harbor different oral normal flora and use Propolis preparations after operation to eliminate opportunistic microflora and pathogenic bacteria without harmful effect on microflora in ecosystem of the oral cavity (**Niedzielska I *et al.* 2016**). There is an argument regarding the evidence that support this practice and has not been formally assessed. The evidence to support the prophylactic use of antibiotics in the treatment of mandible fractures is rather limited, inadequate, and of uncertain and doubtful quality and value (**Kyzas PA. 2011**). Some of evidence showed a reduction in rate of infection while others fear from bacterial resistance to drugs, side effects of the drugs and continuous usage of the antibiotics, and cost effectiveness (**Dodson TB. 2007, Ellis E *et al.* 1985, Haug RH *et al.* 1990**). Antibiotic prescribing in patients with mandibular fractures differ significantly and are often based on surgeon preference and favorite rather than evidence based or depend on guidelines (**Munding GS *et al.* 2015**). In clean contaminated measures, the recommendation is to not manage supplementary prophylactic antimicrobial agent after the surgical incision is closed in the operating room and administration of preoperative antimicrobial drugs only when indicated based on guidelines and timed like bactericidal concentration in the serum and tissues before incision (**Zein Eddine SB *et al.* 2020**). There is a comprehensive overview of the topic and offer evidence to support both the benefits and concerns associated with antibiotic use in the context of mandibular fractures. Using preoperative antibiotic do not improve repair outcome of the fracture regardless the type of the repair (**Wick EH *et al.* 2021**). Thus, evidence-based approach like type of the fracture and its characteristics, patient factors and concomitant diseases, and other researches results, is essential to improve antibiotic prophylaxis protocols in mandibular fracture management.

3.Efficacy of Prophylactic Antibiotics in Mandibular Fractures

The prescribed antibiotics should have optimum efficacy and less side effects. There are many confounders factors that determine the usage and efficacy of prophylactic antibiotics that influence occurrence of infection like type of the mandibular fracture and its complexity, type of treatment whether open or closed method, the duration between injury and treatment, presence of teeth in the site of the fracture, and oral hygiene before and after treatment (**Senel FC *et al.* 2007, Martínez-Gimeno C *et al.* 1992, Furr AM *et al.* 2006**). Management with open reduction and internal fixation showed a fourfold increase in infection rates compared to closed reduction operation (**Andreasen JO *et al.* 2006**). There are other patients related factors that include age of the patient, presence of human immune deficiency disease, tobacco, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse which greatly affect mandible outcome and increase rate of infection (**Lovato C, and Wagner JD 2009**). It is well recognized in the maxillofacial surgery and general surgery that only one dose of antibiotics preoperatively given before surgeon incision decreases the rate of infection at surgical site (**Kaiser AB. 1986**).

This practice is based on the innovative research of two clinicians (**Zallen *et al.* 1975, and Chole *et al.* 1987**) who reported the use of preoperative antibiotics in mandibular fracture.

4.Prophylactic Antibiotics in the Management of Mandibular Fractures

Mandibular fractures habitually need surgical interference and prophylactic antibiotics have archaeologically been used before operation for the prevention surgical wound infection from normal flora in the oral cavity and prevent possibly fatal complication like Cervical necrotizing fasciitis (**Koshy JC *et al.* 2010, Aas JA *et al.* 2005, Jinka SKA, *et al.* 2023**). Prophylactic antibiotic usually used in surgical extractions of third molars teeth, comminuted mandibular fractures, temporomandibular joint replacements, clean or contaminated removal of tumor, and complex dental implants and is not regularly used in fractures of the upper or midface thirds of the face (**Milic T *et al.* 2021**).

The need of antibiotics is necessary in management of mandibular fracture and this required to choose the optimal type of antibiotics, dose, route, timing of administration, and duration that remain topics of debate. The suitable duration of antibiotic treatment for mandibular fracture repair is mysterious and controversial issue, and clinical practices differ significantly. The duration of antibiotic treatment may possibly place patients at risk for postoperative and the ideal duration of effective antibiotic prophylaxis must be clarified (**Rogers Jr SO 2017**). The guidelines of American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons mentioned the usage of broad-spectrum antibiotics like Amoxicillin-Clavulanate, Cefazolin, metronidazole, and Clindamycin for 24-48 hours postoperatively (**Vander Poorten V *et al.* 2020**). The prescription design of antibiotics using differs extensively among different maxillofacial specialties and left to the discretion of the specialists regarding the duration of antibiotics usage and the type given (**Chole RA, and Yee J. 1987**). Despite having guidelines recommending using antibiotics twenty-four hours before operation for the average duration is three to seven days and using first-generation cephalosporins (**Brooke SM *et al.* 2015**). The prospective use of ceftriaxone or cefoxitin daily 1 g preoperatively and perioperatively and penicillin VK

500 mg every 6 hours orally for 1 week postoperatively and using intravenous penicillin G 2 mIU every 4 hours preoperatively and perioperatively with penicillin VK 500 mg every 6 hours orally for 1 week postoperatively did not affect healing or complications (Uram A 2011, Heit JM *et al* 1997). Due to development in diagnosis of bacteria via molecular methods, and development of many antimicrobial agents like antibiotics coating implants lead to personalized use of antibiotics according to patients need and decrease infection rates (Negut, I *et al.* 2024, Hammadi TY, and Abdul Lateef T 2019).

The duration of antibiotics usage is not associated with postoperative infection or complication and there is no difference in outcomes whether short (one day) or extended duration (five days) of prophylactic antibiotics and short course of prescribing antibiotics before operation had sufficient therapeutic effect because long duration leads to comparable complications rates (Zein Eddine SB *et al.* 2020, Vila PM *et al.* 2017, Batarfi AM 2008). Additionally, the use of antibiotics intraoperative is sufficient to decrease the rate of infection and bacterial antibiotics resistance (Omar M. *et al.* 2023). While others showed that usage of antibiotics routinely between time of injury and surgical treatment of mandibular fracture did not show any impact on postoperative infection (Linkugel AD *et al.* 2018). Others showed that postoperative antibiotics did not have additional advantages in comparison with preoperative treatment (Domingo F. *et al.* 2016).

Literature review showed a trend that no need for prescription postoperative antibiotic more than twenty- four hours in patients who had open reduction and internal fixation of mandibular fracture (Domingo F *et al.* 2015). A prospective randomized clinical trial illustrated that prophylaxis use of antibiotics for extended time had no benefit in plummeting infection after open reduction and internal fixation of mandibular fracture (Domingo F *et al.* 2024).

So, the absence of clear guidelines and medication errors in the management which is most common problems in hospitals that leads to many differences in the prescribing drugs and the duration that determine by own preferences. This is due to lack of evidence that support the use of antibiotics owing to poor quality of these studies and lack of large randomized clinical trials that guide the clinical practice of using antibiotics (Dawoud BES *et al.* 2021, Alhamdani FY 2011).

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, usage of prophylactic broad- spectrum antibiotics in the management of mandible fractures is regarded mandatory and obligatory due to its prone to cervical necrotizing fasciitis and contaminated infection with the bacterial normal flora in the mouth.

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