Cefazolin (Ancef)

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: First-Generation Cephalosporin Antibiotic

Mechanism: Inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis by binding to penicillin-binding proteins, leading to bacterial cell death

USE IT FOR

- Any patient with evidence of an open fracture
- Deformity with a break in the adjacent skin

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Known allergy to cephalosporins or penicillins
- Caution: renal impairment or history of gastrointestinal disease
- Ensure the patient has no history of cephalosporin or penicillin allergy

PEARLS

- Prep: reconstitute powder vials with 10 mL NS each — 100 mg/mL (2 g/20 mL or 1 g/10 mL)
- Pregnancy: Category B — no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to fetus
- Document administration time, dose, and patient's response

DOSE

Adult: **<120: 2 g in 100 mL D5W over 10 min; >120: 3 g in 100 mL D5W over 10 min (weight unit not printed in the source text)**

Peds: **50 mg/kg for patients 10 and under, given over 10 min; under 1 year requires Medical Control orders**

Repeat: **Not stated on original page**

WATCH FOR

- GI: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Allergic reactions: rash, pain at injection site, pruritus, fever, anaphylaxis
- Monitor the patient for adverse reactions, especially allergic reactions

Take Home Message:

Open fracture gets Ancef — 2 g, or 3 g over the higher weight threshold — after you confirm no cephalosporin or penicillin allergy.