

Meningitis Initial Management

Do not delay appropriate antimicrobials

Infectious Disease

PHYSICIAN REFERENCE

Immediate

- Blood cultures and prompt empiric antibiotics; add dexamethasone in appropriate suspected bacterial meningitis before/with first antibiotic dose.

LP vs CT

- Lumbar puncture promptly when safe. CT before LP only for selected risk features; do not delay antibiotics for imaging/LP.

Empiric coverage

- Age, immune status and local epidemiology determine regimen; include Listeria coverage when indicated.

Clinical safety note

Use this as a memory aid, not a prescription. Verify current guidelines, local protocols, contraindications, renal/hepatic dosing, pregnancy status, interactions and patient-specific factors before treatment.