OWOLABI MOROUNKEJI NICOLE.

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**NAME OF DRUG.**

**Nitrofurantoin.**

It is less commonly employed for treating UTIs because of its narrow antimicrobial spectrum, frequent bacterial resistance and toxicity.

**ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY.**

* Sensitive bacteria reduce the drug to an active agent that inhibits various enzymes and damages DNA. Activity is greater in acidic urine.
* Nitrofurantoin is bacteriostatic for most susceptible microorganisms at concentrations of 32ug/ml or less and is bactericidal at concentration of 100ug/ml and more. The antibacterial activity is higher in an acidic urine.
* It is active against many strains of E. Coli and enterococci. However most species of proteus and pseudomonas and many species of Enterobacter and klebsiella are resistant.

**Mechanism of action.**

Nitrofurantoin damages DNA since its reduced form is highly reactive. It is rapidly reduced in bacterial cells by flavoproteins (nitrofuran reductase) to multiple reactive intermediates that attack ribosomal proteins, DNA, respiration, pyruvate metabolism and other macromolecules within bacterial cell thereby inhibiting protein synthesis.

**Pharmacokinetics.**

* Nitrofurantoin is absorbed rapidly and completely from the GIT tract.
* Antibacterial concentrations are not achieved in plasma following ingestion of recommended doses because the drug is rapidly eliminated
* Nitrofurantoin colours the urine brown.
* It is not used for pregnant women, individuals with impaired renal function, children younger than one month of age.
* It is not recommended for the treatment of pyelonephritis or prostatis.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS.**

* Gastrointestinal disturbances: these side effects include nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.
* Acute pneumonitis.
* Neurological problems such as headaches, nystagmus and polyneuropathies with demyelination may occur.
* Haemolytic anaemia.