

⚠ Adverse effects by drug class

Drug or class	Adverse effects
ACE inhibitors and ARBs	Fetal anomalies, fetal death
ACE inhibitors	Dry cough
Aldosterone antagonists	Hyperkalemia, erectile dysfunction, gynecomastia
Alpha blockers	Orthostatic hypotension
Beta blockers	Mask the symptoms of hypoglycemia
Diuretics	Electrolyte imbalances
Statins	Myalgia, elevated liver enzymes
Fibrates	Muscle pain, gallstones
Aminoglycosides	Nephrotoxicity, muscle weakness and paralysis, hearing loss
Fluoroquinolones	Tendinitis and tendon rupture (e.g., Achilles), bone and cartilage anomalies, QTc prolongation, pseudomembranous colitis, photosensitivity
Macrolides	Hypersensitivity reactions; QTc prolongation (highest risk with erythromycin and clarithromycin); cholestatic jaundice; tinnitus and deafness. Erythromycin and clarithromycin are potent CYP450 inhibitors
Colistin and polymyxin B	Nephrotoxicity
Tetracyclines	Yellowing of teeth, dizziness, vertigo, pseudomembranous colitis, photosensitivity, fatty liver, esophageal ulceration
Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, crystalluria, kernicterus (severe jaundice in neonates), renal failure, sulfa allergy
Metronidazole	Neuropathy, headache, seizures; a disulfiram-like reaction with alcohol (severe nausea, vomiting, flushing, sweating)
Clindamycin	Pseudomembranous colitis, esophageal ulcers
Imipenem	Seizures
Cephalosporins	Pseudomembranous colitis, hypersensitivity reactions, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, Coombs-positive hemolytic anemia
Penicillins	Hypersensitivity reactions (rash, anaphylaxis, urticaria, angioedema, serum sickness, exfoliative dermatitis), seizures, nephritis, pseudomembranous colitis, Coombs-positive hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia. Penicillin allergy carries 2–10% cross-reactivity with cephalosporins
Vancomycin	Hypersensitivity reactions (rash, fever, neutropenia, phlebitis); “red man” syndrome from histamine release on rapid IV infusion
QTc-prolonging antipsychotics	Thioridazine, haloperidol, olanzapine, risperidone, ziprasidone — may precipitate arrhythmias and cardiac arrest