



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

C. Difficile Colitis

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Highlights:

- For initial CDI, first line treatment for both non-severe and severe disease is fidaxomicin, though vancomycin is an acceptable alternative. Fulminant disease, or complicated severe disease, was excluded in trials and most guidelines continue to recommend the use of vancomycin.
- Risk of recurrent infection is increased by age >65, immunocompromised state, & severe CDI. Fidaxomicin is recommended in recurrent CDI, although alternatives include pulsed and tapered vancomycin, vancomycin followed by rifaximin, and fecal microbiota transplant.
- Patients presenting with organ failure, increasing lactate, or increasing vasopressor requirements should be assessed early for operative intervention.