

LIPID FORMULATIONS OF POLYENE DRUGS

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Increasing incidence of invasive fungal infections (IFI) due to expansion of medical technology (BMT, liver, lung transplant, etc.) requires new diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. Few new classes of antifungals were introduced. However, significant improvements of formulations of "classic" antifungals were performed (cyclodextrin in itraconazole, lipid formulations of polyenes). After 1990 at least 4 lipid formulations of polyenes were developed-liposomal amphotericin (AmBisome), amphotericin B lipid complex (ABLCAbelcet), amphotericin B colloidal dispersion (ABCD-

Amphocil) and liposomal nystatin (Nyotran). The indications include invasive infections due to azole-resistant *Candida* spp. but mainly infections caused by molds-aspergillosis, zygomycosis, fusariosis etc. Lipid formulations enable to use higher doses (up to 6-10 mg/kg) with lower chronic toxicity. Acute toxicity and cost are the major limitations of their use in other than therapeutic indications in proven or probable IFI. However, studies on empiric therapy and dosing specially in pediatrics are ongoing.