

Table 8.3 Risk of cross-reactivity between different β -lactams

Allergic to	Drug of concern	Risk of cross-reactivity
Cephalosporin	Penicillin	8.3%–25.5% in two series (515–516) *Cephalosporin with structures similar or identical to penicillin have 3-fold increase in risk
	Carbapenems	Imipenem 2% and meropenem 1% in one series
Penicillin	Cephalosporins	10.9% with most involving cephalothin and cefamandole (517)
	Carbapenems	Meropenem 0.9%, imipenem 0.9% (518–520)
	All first generation cephalosporins	Odds ratio: first generation cephalosporins 4.2, second generation cephalosporins 1.1 and third generation cephalosporins 0.8 (521)
	Cephalexin	31% in one series with 16 patients (522)
Amoxicillin	Cefadroxil	38% (cefadroxil has identical side chain to amoxicillin) (523)
	Cefamandole	0% for 21 patients (different side chain to amoxicillin) (523)