

9. *N. gonorrhoeae*

Question	Answer
Can ciprofloxacin be used as first-line therapy?	The 2002 GRASP survey (ref) showed that resistance to ciprofloxacin had risen to 9.8% indicating that the target of >95% efficacy in first-line therapy was no longer achieved.
Is cefuroxime a good choice of antibiotic for treatment?	See Which cephalosporin for gonorrhoeae? Professor Catherine Ison et al on behalf of the North Thames Audit Group (ref) .This report underscores the use of cefixime and ceftriaxone, but finds that cefuroxime is a poor alternative. Version 6 of the BSAC recommendations states that although cefuroxime is not recommended for clinical use, it can be used as an indicator antibiotic to detect reductions in susceptibility to other oxyimino cephalosporin.
Should nalidixic acid be used to detect fluoroquinolone resistance?	Generally, a 30 µg nalidixic acid disc will detect resistance in <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> . However, there are isolates of <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> that are nalidixic acid susceptible but ciprofloxacin resistant. The BSAC recommend that susceptibility to ciprofloxacin should be confirmed on all nalidixic acid susceptible isolates if ciprofloxacin is to be used for treatment.