

**"Twenty-five  
dollars?"**



*Yes, that's what a course of  
cephalexin (Keflex) can cost\*...  
a troublesome "side effect" for  
many patients.*

\*see cost data overleaf

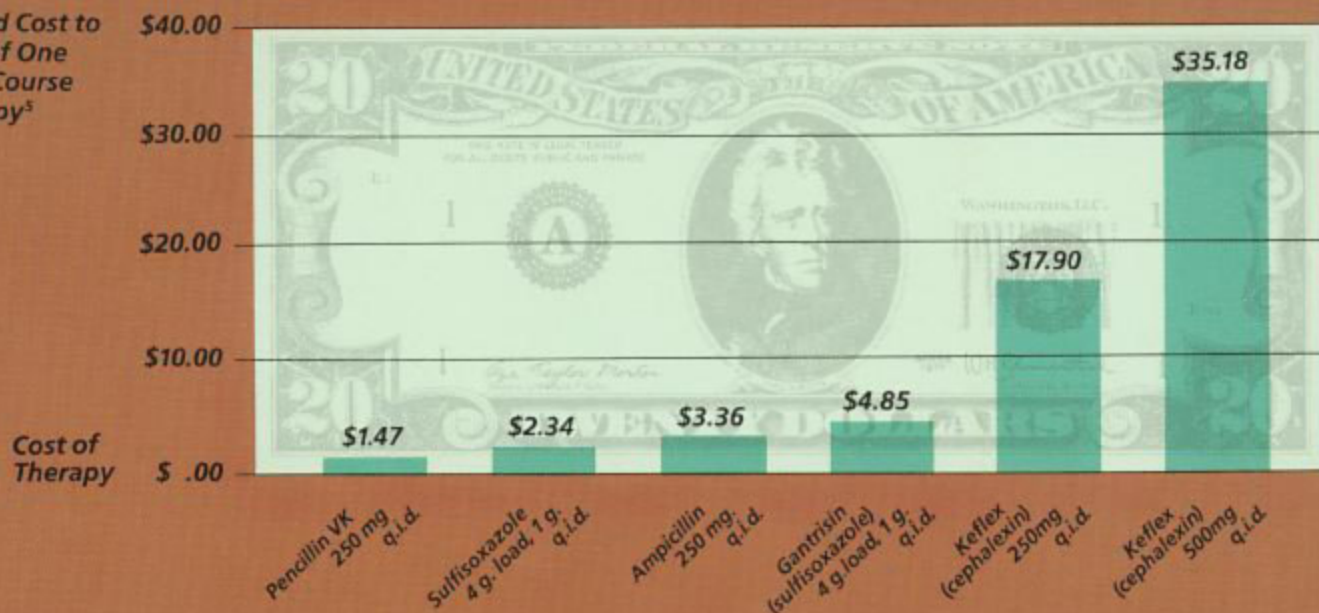
# Back To Basics...

## For Urinary Tract Infections:

Despite the advent in recent years of a large number of new antibiotics active against urinary pathogens, practitioners and consultants agree that **sulfa** drugs are still the agents of first choice in nearly all cases of uncomplicated cystitis.<sup>1,4</sup>

Tested by decades of use and the clinical experience of generations of physicians, sulfa drugs like sulfisoxazole (Gantrisin and equivalents) have proven themselves remarkably safe and effective against urinary tract infections.

Estimated Cost to Patient of One Ten-day Course of Therapy<sup>5</sup>



## For Upper Respiratory Infections:

Most clinicians recommend **no antibiotic** for an acute URI unless there is reason to suspect streptococcal pharyngitis.<sup>6</sup> For these patients,

**penicillin** is still the drug of choice. Nasal congestion, sore throat and fever are best treated with non-antibiotic medications such as decongestants, anesthetic lozenges, and aspirin.<sup>7</sup>

In these times of tight budgets, patients will appreciate the low cost and high efficacy of these tried and true drugs.

### References

- 1 Weinstein L: Antimicrobial agents, The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics. Fifth edition. Edited by LS Goodman, A Gilman. New York, MacMillan, 1975, pp 1125-1126.
- 2 Stamm W, Turck M: Urinary tract infection, pyelonephritis, and related conditions, Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine. Seventh edition. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1980, pp 1330-1331.
- 3 The Medical Letter, 18:3, 1976.
- 4 Kunin CM: Detection, Prevention and Management of Urinary Tract Infection. Third edition. Philadelphia, Lea and Febiger, 1979.
- 5 Based on cost to pharmacist plus standard one-third mark-up. Median costs were used for generic products with multiple manufacturers. Source: Drug Topics Redbook. Oradell, New Jersey, Medical Economics, 1980.
- 6 Scheife RT, Meade RH, Miller RR: Usage of cephalexin and other new antimicrobials. American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy 32:1106, 1975.
- 7 AMA Drug Evaluations. Fourth edition. Chicago, American Medical Association, 1980, pp 461-473.

This information has been prepared by the Drug Information Program of Harvard Medical School, under the direction of Jerry Avorn, M.D. A brief pamphlet for laypersons, "Common Sense About the Common Cold," has been written for physicians to distribute to patients in explaining the material presented above. For copies (specify number desired), and for additional information, please write to the Drug Information Program, Harvard Medical School, 643 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. The Drug Information Program is supported in part by grant No. HS03880 from the National Center for Health Services Research of the Public Health Service.

