Erythromycin acts by inhibition of protein synthesis by ribosomes. The absorption of erythromycin following oral administration is variable; however, comparable serum levels of erythromycin are achieved.

**Indications**

Erythromycin is indicated for the treatment of the following conditions:

- **Lower Respiratory Tract Infections**
- **Acute Gastroenteritis**
- **Diphtheria**
- **Nongonococcal Urethritis**
- **Skin and Soft Tissue Infections**

**Dosage and Administration**

- **Adults and Children**
  - Initial dosages should be based on the patient's symptoms and condition.
  - For treatment of bacterial infections, dosages should be adjusted according to the sensitivity of the organism.
  - For treatment of atypical mycobacterial infections, dosages should be increased to a maximum of 2400 mg/day.

**Precautions**

- **Drug Interactions**
  - Concomitant administration of erythromycin and certain drugs can result in interactions that may affect the efficacy or safety of the drugs.
  - The use of erythromycin with certain drugs should be avoided due to the risk of increased concentrations of the concomitant drug.

**Warnings**

- **QT Prolongation**
  - Erythromycin can cause QT prolongation, which may lead to torsades de pointes and sudden death.

**Contraindications**

- **Hydroxylation**
  - Erythromycin is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to erythromycin or other macrolides.

**Adverse Reactions**

- **Diarrhea**
  - Diarrhea is a common problem caused by antibiotics, but it can be more severe when it is caused by an antibiotic that affects the large intestine.

**Special Populations**

- **Elderly**
  - Elderly patients may experience increased effects of erythromycin.

**Dosage Adjustment**

- **Elderly Patients**
  - Dosage adjustments may be necessary for elderly patients due to age-related changes in renal or hepatic function.

**References**

- **Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute**
  - CLSI, Wayne, PA, 2018

- **Committee on Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis, and Kawasaki Disease**
  - Arthritis Subcommittee

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