

Cephalexin

Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections. This medication is known as a cephalosporin antibiotic. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth, usually every 6 or 12 hours or as directed by your doctor. You may take this medicine with food if stomach upset occurs.

If you are using the suspension, shake the bottle well before each dose. Measure the dose carefully using a special measuring device/spoon.

The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to treatment. In children, the dose is also based on weight.

Antibiotics work best when the amount of medicine in your body is kept at a constant level. Therefore, take this drug at evenly spaced intervals.

Continue to take this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking cephalexin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to penicillins or other cephalosporins.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of kidney disease, stomach/intestinal disease (e.g., colitis).

This drug may make you dizzy. Use caution while driving, using machinery, or doing any activity that requires alertness. Limit alcoholic beverages.

The liquid form of this product may contain sugar. Caution is advised if you have diabetes.

Older adults may be at greater risk for side effects while using this drug.

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed.

This medication passes into breast milk.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- seizure (convulsions);
- fever, sore throat, and headache with a severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash;
- pale or yellowed skin, dark colored urine, fever, confusion or weakness;
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- confusion, agitation, hallucinations (seeing things that are not there); or
- urinating less than usual or not at all.

Less serious side effects are more likely to occur, such as:

- mild nausea, vomiting, diarrhea;
- dizziness, tired feeling;
- joint pain; or
- vaginal itching or discharge.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store capsules/tablets at room temperature between 20-25 degrees C away from light and moisture.

Store the suspension in the refrigerator between 2-8 degrees C. Do not freeze. Keep the container tightly closed. Discard any unused portion after 14 days.

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately

What other information should I know?

Do not use this medication if you are allergic to cephalexin, or to similar antibiotics.

Take this medication for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor. Your symptoms may get better before the infection is completely treated.

Cephalexin will not treat a viral infection such as the common cold or flu.

