

Ciprofloxacin

Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is used to treat a variety of bacterial infections. Ciprofloxacin belongs to a class of drugs called quinolone antibiotics. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

How should this medicine be used?

This medication may be taken with or without food, usually twice a day in the morning and evening or as directed by your doctor.

The dosage and length of treatment is based on your medical condition and response to treatment. Drink plenty of fluids while taking this medication unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Take this medication 2 hours before or 6 hours after taking any medications or antacids containing magnesium, aluminum, or calcium. Some examples include quinapril, certain forms of didanosine (chewable/dispersible buffered tablets or pediatric oral solution), vitamins/minerals, antacids, dairy products (e.g., milk, yogurt), calcium-enriched juice, and sucralfate. Other products include bismuth subsalicylate, iron, and zinc. These medications/products bind with ciprofloxacin and prevent its full absorption. However, this medication may be taken with dairy products or calcium-enriched juice as part of a meal because food helps prevent this effect.

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 ciprofloxacin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other quinolone antibiotics such as norfloxacin, gemifloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, or ofloxacin; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: diabetes, certain heart problem (QT prolongation in the EKG), family history of a certain heart problem (QT prolongation in the EKG), heart problems (e.g., slow/fast/irregular heartbeat, heart failure, recent heart attack), joint/tendon problems (e.g., tendonitis, bursitis), kidney disease, liver disease, nervous system disorder (e.g., peripheral neuropathy), seizure disorder, conditions that increase your risk of seizures (e.g., brain/head injury, brain tumors, cerebral atherosclerosis), untreated low levels of potassium or magnesium in the blood.

This medication may rarely cause serious changes in blood sugar levels, especially if you have diabetes. Watch for symptoms of high blood sugar including increased thirst and urination. Also watch for symptoms of low blood sugar such as nervousness, shakiness, fast heartbeat, sweating, or hunger

To help prevent low blood sugar, eat meals on a regular schedule, and do not skip meals.

This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged sun exposure, tanning booths, and sunlamps. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when outdoors.

Caution is advised when using this drug in children because they may be more sensitive to its possible side effects (e.g., joint/tendon problems). Discuss the risks and benefits with the doctor.

Kidney function declines as you grow older. This medication is removed by the kidneys. Therefore, older adults may be more sensitive to its side effects such as tendon problems (especially if they are also taking corticosteroids such as prednisone or hydrocortisone) or heart problems

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

This medication passes into breast milk. Breastfeeding is not recommended while taking this drug.

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

Take each dose with a full glass of water (8 ounces). Drink several extra glasses of fluid each day while you are taking ciprofloxacin.

Do not take ciprofloxacin with dairy products such as milk or yogurt, or with calcium-fortified juice. You may eat or drink dairy products or calcium-fortified juice with a regular meal, but do not use them alone when taking ciprofloxacin. They could make the medication less effective.

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?

Stop using ciprofloxacin and 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.

Stop using ciprofloxacin and call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- seizure (black-out or convulsions);
- confusion, hallucinations, depression, or thoughts of hurting yourself or others;
- sudden pain or swelling near your joints (especially in your arm or ankle);
- nausea, stomach pain, low fever, lost appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- urinating more or less than usual;
- numbness, tingling, or unusual pain anywhere in your body; or
- chest pain, pounding or fast heartbeats.

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

- nausea, vomiting;
- dizziness or drowsiness;
- blurred vision;
- sleep problems (insomnia);
- joint stiffness or muscle pain; or
- increased sensitivity of the skin to sunlight.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature below 30 degrees C away from light and moisture. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.

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?

Take all of the ciprofloxacin that has been prescribed for you even if you begin to feel better. Your symptoms may start to improve before the infection is completely treated

FDA pregnancy category C: This medication may be harmful to an unborn baby. Do not use ciprofloxacin without telling your doctor if you are pregnant. Tell your doctor if you become pregnant during treatment