

Gatifloxacin

Why is this medication prescribed?

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

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth with or without food, usually once daily or as directed by your doctor. Drink plenty of fluids while taking this drug. Take this medication at least 4 hours before taking any drugs that contain magnesium or aluminum. Some examples include quinapril, certain forms of didanosine, vitamins/minerals, and antacids. Follow the same instructions if you take bismuth subsalicylate, sucralfate, iron, and zinc. These medications bind with gatifloxacin and prevent its full absorption.

Take this medication at the same time every day. Continue to take this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a return of the infection.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before using gatifloxacin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other quinolone antibiotics (e.g., ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin); or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: low levels of potassium or magnesium in the blood, 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, nervous system disorder (e.g., peripheral neuropathy), obesity, seizure disorder, conditions that increase your risk of seizures (e.g., brain/head injury, brain tumors, cerebral atherosclerosis).

This medication may rarely cause serious changes in blood sugar levels, especially if you have diabetes.

This drug may make you dizzy or lightheaded. Use caution while driving, using machinery, or taking part in any activity that requires alertness.

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). Therefore, older adults may be more sensitive to its side effects (e.g., blood sugar or tendon problems).

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

Limit alcoholic beverages.

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.

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

- fast, pounding, or uneven heartbeats;
- feeling light-headed, fainting;
- seizure (convulsions);
- numbness, tingly feeling, burning pain;
- skin rash that is red and blisters or peels;
- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- nausea, stomach pain, low fever, lost appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- sudden pain or swelling near your joints (especially in your arm or ankle); or
- a skin rash.

Continue using gatifloxacin and talk with your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects:

- mild nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea;
- feeling dizzy, restless, or confused;
- vaginal discharge or itching;
- sleep problems (insomnia or nightmares); or
- headache.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature at 25 degrees C away from light and moisture. Brief storage between 15-30 degrees C is permitted

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?

You should not take gatifloxacin if you have diabetes.

Avoid exposure to sunlight or artificial UV rays (sunlamps or tanning beds). Gatifloxacin can make your skin more sensitive to sunlight and sunburn may result



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