

Medication Information

Cephalexin

(sef – a LEKS – in)

Other names for this medication

Keflex

How this medication is used

Take this medication exactly as directed. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well. Stopping an antibiotic too early may result in failure to cure your infection.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any other medications, natural or herbal products that you take – even the ones you buy without a prescription.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take two doses at one time.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- Nausea or upset stomach
- Diarrhea

Tablets: Tablets may be taken with or without food, take with food if the medication causes your stomach to be upset.

Oral Suspension: Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Store in the fridge, the suspension can be used for 14 days after being mixed by the pharmacist.

Contact your health care provider right away or go to the emergency department if you notice:

- Severe diarrhea and/or abdominal pain
- No improvement or worsening of your infection
- A temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- Skin rash or hives
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips
- Unexplained bruising or bleeding
- Confusion or hallucinations
- Seizures

This medication information handout does not list all possible unwanted effects. Keep track of how you are feeling after you start taking this medication and report any unwanted effects to your doctor or health care provider.

Common medications that interact with cephalexin

Use caution with vitamin K antagonists, such as warfarin, while taking cephalexin:

- If you are on warfarin, your health care provider may ask you to get your INR checked more often as cephalexin can change the way warfarin is metabolized (broken down) in your body.

Speak to your pharmacist or health care provider if you take this medication.

Pregnancy: Cephalexin is generally safe for use during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your doctor or health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

Breastfeeding: Cephalexin is generally safe to use while breast feeding. However, a small amount of Cephalexin is excreted into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Cephalexin is commonly used in infants, children and adolescents.