

Medication Information

Ciprofloxacin

(Sip – ro – flox – a – sin)

Other names for this medication

Cipro[®]

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well.

If you stop taking this antibiotic too early, it may not cure your infection.

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

Do not take this medication with milk, yogurt or other dairy products or juices that contain calcium.

If you use antacids, mineral supplements or vitamins that contain minerals (see page 3 for examples), take ciprofloxacin at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after these medicines.

Minerals include calcium, magnesium, zinc or iron.

How to take this medication (continued)

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 2 doses at one time.

Tablets: Take tablets with or without food (see directions on page 1 with regards to milk products).

Oral liquid with microcapsules: Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Do not chew the microcapsules in the liquid. Store in the fridge or at room temperature. It can be used for 14 days after being mixed by the pharmacist.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- nausea or upset stomach
- diarrhea
- dizziness
- trouble sleeping

Contact your health care provider 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
- pain or swelling of joints, muscles or tendons – this may happen during or following treatment with ciprofloxacin
- fast or irregular heartbeat
- seizures or convulsions

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

Common medications that interact with ciprofloxacin

Use caution with these medications while taking ciprofloxacin.

If you take	Examples	What to do ...
Mineral supplements	calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron	These supplements and medications will bind to ciprofloxacin and reduce the effect of the antibiotic.
Antacids/ulcer medications	Milk of Magnesia [®] , TUMS [®] , Gaviscon [®] , sucralfate	Take ciprofloxacin 2 hours before or 4 to 6 hours after a mineral supplement or antacid/ulcer medication.
Blood glucose lowering medications	metformin, glyburide, insulin	Ciprofloxacin may cause high or low blood glucose levels. You may need to have your blood glucose taken more often.
Caffeine	coffee, cola drinks, tea	Ciprofloxacin can increase the effect of caffeine. You may need to limit drinks with caffeine.
Corticosteroids	cortisone, hydrocortisone, prednisone	Ciprofloxacin may increase muscle or calf pain. Watch for any muscle or calf pain.
Vitamin K antagonists	warfarin	Ciprofloxacin can change the way warfarin is broken down by your body. Your health care provider may ask you to get your INR checked more often.
QT-prolonging agents	amitriptyline, amiodarone, clarithromycin, haloperidol	Your health care provider may order electrocardiograms (ECG's) regularly to monitor your heart rhythm. If you have palpitations or a fast heartbeat, call your health care provider right away or go to the emergency department.

Speak to your pharmacist or health care provider if you take any of the above.

Pregnancy: Use ciprofloxacin with caution during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

Breastfeeding: A small amount of ciprofloxacin passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Ciprofloxacin is not recommended for children younger than 18 years of age.