

# Medication Information

## Levofloxacin (Lee – vo – flox – a – sin)

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### Other names for this medication

Levaquin®

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your health care provider. 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 health care provider and 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 Levofloxacin at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after these medicines.**

**Minerals include calcium, magnesium, zinc or iron.**

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 take the medication at your regular dosing time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

**While taking this medication you may notice:**

- nausea
- upset stomach
- headache

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

**Oral solution:** Take liquid solution on an empty stomach one hour before or 2 hours after meals. Store at room temperature.

**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
- worsening skin rash or hives
- a temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- 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 levofloxacin
- unusual nervousness or significant trouble sleeping
- irregular heartbeat or palpitations
- 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 levofloxacin

Use caution with these medications while taking levofloxacin.

If you take	Examples	What to do ...
Mineral supplements  Antacids/ulcer medications	calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron  Milk of Magnesia <sup>®</sup> , TUMS <sup>®</sup> , Gaviscon <sup>®</sup> , sucralfate	These supplements and medications will bind to levofloxacin and reduce the effect of the antibiotic.  Take levofloxacin 2 hours before or 4 to 6 hours after a mineral supplement or antacid/ulcer medication.
Blood glucose lowering medications	metformin, glyburide, insulin	Levofloxacin may cause high or low blood glucose levels.  You may need to have your blood glucose taken more often.
Caffeine	coffee, cola drinks, tea	Levofloxacin can increase the effect of caffeine.  You may need to limit drinks with caffeine.
Corticosteroids	cortisone, hydrocortisone, prednisone	Levofloxacin may increase muscle or calf pain.  Watch for any muscle or calf pain.
Vitamin K antagonists	warfarin	Levofloxacin 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 levofloxacin with caution during pregnancy, especially in the first 4 months. 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 levofloxacin passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

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