

Medication Fact Sheet

Ciprofloxacin (Cipro)



Ciprofloxacin (Cipro) is an antibiotic used to treat different kinds of infections. It is used to treat infections caused by anthrax and plague bacteria.

If you have been given ciprofloxacin (Cipro) or any other fluoroquinolone antibiotic such as Ofloxacin (Floxacin), Norfloxacin (Noroxin) or nalidixic acid (Neg-gram) in the past and had a reaction or side effect, another antibiotic may be given to you. These other antibiotics are just as effective as Ciprofloxacin in preventing infection.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding be sure to tell the health care workers in the clinic.

Tell the health care worker if you are taking any medicine for seizures such as **Dilantin, Phenobarbitol, Tegretol or Carbatrol**, if you are taking Theophylline, probenecid (Benemid), Coumadin or Cyclosporine or any medicines that you can buy without a prescription such as aspirin, cold or sinus medicine. If you are taking any of these medications, you must see your primary care provider within three to five days after starting the antibiotics.

How to take Ciprofloxacin:

- You will be given a supply of Ciprofloxacin. If we learn that you need to take Ciprofloxacin for a longer period of time, a health care worker will contact you.
- Take Ciprofloxacin two times each day, about 12 hours apart.
- Take this medicine until all the pills are gone or until you are told to stop. If you stop taking this medicine too soon you may become ill.
- It is best to take Ciprofloxacin two hours before or after you eat a meal. If your stomach becomes upset, take the medicine with food, but do not take it with milk, yogurt or cheese.
- Take Ciprofloxacin with a full glass of water. Drink several glasses of water each day.
- If you miss a dose, take Ciprofloxacin as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose (within three hours), skip the missed dose and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not take two doses at one time.

Reactions or Side Effects:

- **Common side effects:** nausea, mild diarrhea, stomach pain or discomfort, headache, lightheadedness, dizziness or sleepiness (**Do not** drive a car or operate machinery if you experience these symptoms).
- Ciprofloxacin may make your skin more sensitive to the sun and you may sunburn more easily for several months after you finish the medicine. It is best to stay out of the sun, avoid sun lamps and wear sunscreen to protect your skin.
- **Rare side effects:** vomiting or severe diarrhea, disorientation, confusion, agitation, hallucinations, fever, inflammation of tendons.
- **Allergic reaction:** rash; hives; itching, swelling of face, throat or lips; shortness of breath or trouble breathing.
- Seek medical advice if you have any reaction to Cipro.

Avoid the following food and drugs while taking Cipro:

Do not take the following medicines within two hours of taking Ciprofloxacin: antacids (Maalox, Mylanta, Tums) or other medicine that contains calcium; sucralfate (Carafate); vitamins with iron or zinc supplements. You should not have more than two caffeine drinks (coffee, tea, soft drinks) per day while taking this medicine. **Do not** take Cipro with milk, yogurt or cheese.

DO NOT give your Cipro to any other person.

DO NOT give Cipro to children without a physician's order.

If you do not understand these instructions or if you want more information, please tell the health care worker before you leave the clinic area.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).