

Ciprofloxacin Oral

(Cipro)

FACT SHEET

Ciprofloxacin (*Cipro*) is used to treat gonorrhea and other bacterial infections. This medicine will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.

Before using this medication, the following should be considered:

Allergies – Tell your health care professional if you are allergic to ciprofloxacin, enoxacin (Penetrex), levofloxacin (Levaquin), lomefloxacin (Maxaquin), norfloxacin (Noroxin), ofloxacin (Floxin), sparfloxacin (Zagam), cinoxacin (Cinobac), nalidixic acid (NegGram), or any other drugs, food, preservatives, or dyes.

Pregnancy & Breastfeeding – tell your health care professional if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.

Other medicines – Tell your health care professional and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially other antibiotics, anticoagulants (“blood thinners”) such as warfarin (Coumadin), cancer chemotherapy agents, cimetidine (Tagamet), cinoxacin (Cinobac), cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune), enoxacin (Penetrex), levofloxacin (Levaquin), lomefloxacin (Maxaquin), medications that can cause seizures, medications with caffeine (NoDoz, Vivarin), nalidixic acid (NegGram), norfloxacin (Noroxin), ofloxacin (Floxin), phenytoin (Dilantin), probenecid (Benemid), sparfloxacin (Zagam), sucralfate (Carafate), theophylline (Theobid, Theo-Dur, others), and vitamins.

It is especially important that your health care provider know if you are taking any of the following:

Antacids - antacids (*Mylanta, Maalox*); didanosine (*Videx*) chewable/buffered tablets or powder; calcium, iron or zinc supplements; or sucralfate (*Carafate*): Take these products 2 hours after or 6 hours before ciprofloxacin.

Other medical problems:

Tell your health care professional if you have or have ever had kidney or liver disease, epilepsy, colitis, stomach problems, vision problems, heart disease, or history of stroke.

If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the provider or dentist that you are taking ciprofloxacin. You should know that this drug may cause dizziness, lightheadedness, and tiredness.

Proper use of this medication:

Do not take ciprofloxacin with dairy products such as milk or yogurt. Drink at least eight full glasses of water or other liquid every day. Do not drink or eat a lot of caffeine-containing products such as coffee, tea, cola, or chocolate. Ciprofloxacin increases nervousness, sleeplessness, heart pounding, and anxiety caused by caffeine.

Precautions while using this medicine:

Do not drive a car or work on dangerous machines until you know how ciprofloxacin will affect you. Plan to avoid unnecessary or prolonged exposure to sunlight and to wear protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Ciprofloxacin may make your skin sensitive to sunlight.

If your symptoms do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, check with your doctor. Keep all of your appointments with your health care provider and laboratory.

Side effects of the medicine:

(Although side effects from ciprofloxacin are not common, they can occur. Tell your health care provider if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away.)

- upset stomach, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain
- headache, restlessness, nervousness
- difficulty falling or staying asleep, anxiety, nightmares

Get help immediately if any of the following side effects occur:

- skin rash, itching, hives, difficulty breathing or swallowing, swelling of the face or throat
- yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine, pale or dark stools, blood in urine
- unusual tiredness, sunburn or blistering, seizures or convulsions, vaginal infection
- vision changes, pain, swelling, or rupture of a tendon
- dizziness, confusion, tremors, delusions, seeing visions or hearing voices that do not exist
- depression, thoughts about dying or killing yourself



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