

## Ciprofloxacin/ Cipro<sup>®</sup>

Names	Ciprofloxacin (sip roe flox' a sin) is the generic drug name. Cipro <sup>®</sup> is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Administered?	Ciprofloxacin comes as a tablet, a long-acting tablet, or a liquid to take by mouth. It is also available as a solution to be given by IV (intravenous).
Why am I Taking Ciprofloxacin?	This medication is an antibiotic; it is used to prevent and treat infections caused by bacteria.
How Does it Work?	Ciprofloxacin is in a class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones. It works by killing bacteria that cause infections. Antibiotics will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Taking Cipro?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have ever had an allergic reaction to any quinolone or fluoroquinolone antibiotic such as levofloxacin (Levaquin<sup>®</sup>)</li><li>• have nerve problems, a low potassium level, seizures, kidney disease, diabetes, or liver disease</li><li>• or a family member has, or has ever had, a prolonged QT interval or an irregular heartbeat</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>
How Should I Use Cipro?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you. Only take this medication as prescribed by your doctor. Do not use this medicine to treat any other infections or problems.</li><li>• Do not take Cipro with dairy products (milk, yogurt) or calcium-added juices alone. You may take it with a meal that includes these foods.</li><li>• Avoid caffeine (coffee, soda, chocolate, energy drinks) while using this medicine. Cipro may cause caffeine to stay in your body longer than usual and cause sleeplessness, anxiety, and heart palpitations.</li></ul>

- Some medicines, antacids, and mineral supplements can change the way Cipro works in your body. These medicines include Maalox® or Mylanta®, sucralfate (Carafate®), and multivitamins with calcium, iron, or zinc. Didanosine (Videx®) powder or chewable buffered tablets may also affect how Cipro works. If you use any of these medicines, **take them at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take Cipro.**
- Drink extra fluids so you will pass more urine while you are using this medicine. This will keep your kidneys working well and help prevent kidney problems.
- Keep using this medicine for the full treatment time, even if you feel better after the first few doses. Your infection may not clear up if you stop using the medicine too soon.
- If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for the next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.
- The extended-release tablet (Cipro® XR) is **NOT** the same as the regular-release tablet or liquid (Cipro®). Use the exact medicine that your doctor prescribed. Do not use a different medicine, even if the names look alike.
- Swallow extended-release tablets whole. Do not crush, break, or chew.
- Do not take more than 1 extended release tablet (Cipro® XR) in a day.
- Shake the **oral liquid** for at least 15 seconds just before each use. The oral liquid has small microcapsules floating in it. These look like bubbles or small beads. **Do not chew the microcapsules** when you drink the oral liquid. Use a marked, measured oral syringe or medicine cup.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects and How Can I Manage Them?

Side effects are not common, but may include:

- Nausea: Try taking your medication with food; eat small, frequent meals during the day; and avoid spicy and greasy foods.
- Rash/Photosensitivity (sensitivity to sunlight): Check with your doctor before putting anything on a rash. Keep the area clean and dry. Use a sunscreen with a SPF of at least 15 and wear a hat, long sleeve shirts, and long pants when outdoors. Do not use tanning beds.
- Diarrhea: Ask your doctor before taking any medicine to stop diarrhea. Drink 2-3 quarts of fluid (particularly water) a day, to help replace lost fluids. Avoid spicy or greasy foods.

## When to Call Your Doctor

**Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have** signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations

Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital.

### **Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- peeling or blistering skin
- severe diarrhea or diarrhea that may contain blood (may occur with or without fever and stomach cramps up to 2 months or more after treatment ends)
- blood in your urine, or a change in how much or how often you urinate
- fast, slow, pounding, or irregular heartbeat
- yellowing of skin or eyes, dark urine, decreased urination
- numbness, tingling, weakness, or burning pain in your hands, arms, legs, or feet
- confusion, unusual thoughts or behavior

### **Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:**

- blurred vision, feeling more sensitive to light or colors
- mild muscle or joint pain, decreased joint movement
- nausea or vomiting that is not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- problems falling asleep or staying asleep

## What Else Should I Know About Cipro?

- May cause dizziness or drowsiness. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything that could be dangerous if you are not alert.
- Taking ciprofloxacin increases the risk that you will develop tendinitis (swelling of a tendon, the tissue that connects a bone to a muscle) or have a tendon rupture during treatment or for up to several months afterward. Tendinitis or tendon rupture may happen to people of any age, but the risk is highest in people over 60 years of age. Tell your doctor if you have a joint or tendon disorder such as rheumatoid arthritis, or if you participate in regular physical activity. If you get symptoms of tendinitis (pain, swelling, tenderness, stiffness, or difficulty in moving a muscle), stop taking ciprofloxacin, rest, and call

your doctor immediately. If you have symptoms of tendon rupture (hearing or feeling a snap or pop in a tendon area, bruising after an injury to a tendon area, or inability to move or to bear weight on an affected area), stop taking ciprofloxacin and get emergency medical treatment.

- Ciprofloxacin may cause nerve damage that may not go away even after you stop taking it. This damage may occur soon after you begin taking it. If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately: numbness, tingling, pain, or burning in the arms or legs; or a change in your ability to feel light touch, pain, heat, or cold.
- Your doctor will need to check your blood or urine at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.
- Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Store the oral liquid at room temperature or in the refrigerator. Do not freeze it. Do not keep the oral liquid for more than 14 days.
- Keep all medications away from children and do not share your medicines with anyone.
- Ciprofloxacin may worsen muscle weakness in people with myasthenia gravis (MG), a disorder of the nervous system.
- If you would like more information about ciprofloxacin, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.