
Patient Information: Ciprofloxacin

Ciprofloxacin 500 mg Oral Tablet

Take this medicine only as prescribed.

Ciprofloxacin is a quinolone antibiotic. It has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat and protect people who have been exposed to anthrax. It is usually provided in a 500-mg oral tablet or as an oral suspension for children.

How to take Ciprofloxacin

Adults: Take 1 tablet every 12 hours as directed.

Children: A child's dose depends on body weight. Give the medicine to your child as directed by the doctor.

Take this medicine with a large glass of water 2 hours before or after a meal. Taking it with food may help avoid an upset stomach.

Do not eat dairy products such as milk and yogurt for at least 3 hours before and after taking the medicine. If you take vitamins or antacids such as Tums or Maalox, take them 6 hours before or 2 hours after taking this medicine.

If you miss a dose, start again taking one pill three times each day. Do not take 2 pills at one time to make up for the missed dose. Finish all your pills, even if you feel fine, unless your doctor tells you to stop. **If you stop taking this medicine too soon, you may become ill.**

Side Effects

Common side effects of this medicine are an upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, feeling tired, dizziness, or headache. If you have problems with any of these symptoms, tell your doctor.

Some people might have pain or tingling in arms and/or legs, change in vision, restlessness, ringing in ears, tendonitis, tendon rupture, or mental changes. If you have any of these problems, call your doctor right away.

Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Signs of an allergic reaction are rash; itching; swelling of the tongue, hands or feet; fever; and trouble breathing. If you have any of these problems, call your doctor right away.

Children: This medicine may cause joint problems in infants and children younger than 18 years old. If your child has any joint pain while he/she is taking this medicine, tell your doctor.

Dizziness: If this drug makes you dizzy, use caution driving or doing tasks that require you to be alert. Do not drink alcohol if you are dizzy.

Sunburn: This medicine can make skin very sensitive to the sun and can cause sunburn. Avoid sun as much as possible. When outside, wear a long sleeve shirt and hat and always put on sunscreen (30 SPF).

This medicine can increase the effects of caffeine and a medicine called theophylline.

Tell Your Doctor

- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- The names of ALL of the medicines that you are taking, including pills that were bought at the store such as vitamins and antacids.
- If you have ever had a seizure, stroke, or problems with your kidneys, joints, tendons, liver, or vision.
- If you have ever had any unusual bleeding or bruising.
- If you are pregnant, may become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- If you get vaginal itching and discharge. This medicine can cause these problems.

For more information, call the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center at 1-800-222-1222 or go to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/anthrax/.