



CIPROFLOXACIN

November 2001

BRAND NAME: *Cipro*

REASON FOR USE:

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic prescribed to treat a wide range of bacterial infections, including urinary tract, lower respiratory, skin, bone and joint infections, infectious diarrhea and anthrax.

WHEN TO TAKE THE MEDICATION:

1. Closely follow the medication schedule prescribed by your physician. Do not exceed the recommended dose.
2. It is generally prescribed to be taken twice a day at evenly spaced intervals (*i.e. every 12 hours*).

HOW TO TAKE THE MEDICATION:

1. Ciprofloxacin is best taken with a full glass (8 ounces) of water. Several additional glasses of water should be taken daily while on this drug, unless you are instructed otherwise by your doctor.
2. Ciprofloxacin may be taken with meals or on an empty stomach.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

1. There are no known interactions with specific foods reported with this medication. However, ciprofloxacin may increase and/or prolong the effects of caffeine.
2. Do not take sucralfate or antacids containing aluminum, calcium or magnesium or products containing iron or multivitamins containing zinc at the same time as ciprofloxacin. Take these medications 2 hours before or 2 hours after taking ciprofloxacin.
3. Because of the potential for drug interactions or the possible need for dose adjustment, inform your physician of all prescription and non-prescription medications you are taking especially theophylline, oral anticoagulants, cyclosporine and probenecid. Be aware that if you are taking theophylline, the combination of ciprofloxacin and theophylline may result in an increased theophylline level in your body and may require adjustment of your theophylline dose.

STORAGE OF MEDICATION:

1. Store the medication in its original labeled container and keep the container tightly closed.
2. Keep the medication in a dry place and out of the reach of children.

MISSED DOSE(S):

1. If you miss a dose of ciprofloxacin, take the missed dose as soon as you remember and take the remaining dose at evenly spaced intervals throughout the day.
2. If almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next regularly scheduled dose at the prescribed time.
3. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:

1. Ciprofloxacin may cause dizziness or lightheadedness. Observe caution while driving or performing other tasks requiring alertness.
2. Most frequent side effects are nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, headache, restlessness and rash. Contact your physician if any of these problems are severe or last for more than two (2) days.
3. If you experience symptoms of an allergic reaction such as shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, rash or fever or if you develop diarrhea, discontinue the medication and contact your physician immediately.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS:

1. Consult your physician if you have a history of central nervous system disorders such as cerebral arteriosclerosis, epilepsy or other factors which predispose to seizures as central nervous system stimulation may occur with ciprofloxacin.
2. Ciprofloxacin may cause increased sensitivity to sunlight. Avoid excessive exposure, use sunscreens and wear protective clothing.
3. Ciprofloxacin may rarely cause inflammation or tearing of a tendon (the cord that attaches muscles to bones). Report any new pain or tenderness in arms and legs promptly to your physician.
4. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, inform your physician before taking ciprofloxacin.
5. Ciprofloxacin is not recommended for use in infants, children or adolescents, except in the case of inhalation anthrax as prescribed by a physician. It is usually taken for 60 days every 12 hours.
6. Take ciprofloxacin for as long as your physician has prescribed even if you feel better.
7. Do not take any unused medication for another infection.

If you have any questions regarding ciprofloxacin, be sure to ask your physician, nurse or pharmacist.