

## Fluoroquinolone antibiotics

(Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Ofloxacin and Delafloxacin)

This leaflet can be made available  
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona  
w innych językach/formatach.

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## Why should I take a fluoroquinolone?

Fluoroquinolones are used to treat serious and life threatening infections where other options are not suitable. You will only be offered a fluoroquinolone if your doctor decides the benefit of these antibiotics is greater than the risk of harm.

## Who can I speak to if I have any questions?

If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist who will be happy to help. Please remember that serious consequences are rare and there are many benefits to taking these medicines.

- Pain in your joints or swelling in your shoulders, arms or legs.
- Abnormal pain or sensations (e.g. pins and needles, tingling, tickling or numbness) especially in the legs or arms.
- Weakness in your body or difficulty walking.
- Severe tiredness, depressed mood, anxiety, severely troubled sleep or problems with your memory.
- Changes in your vision, taste, smell or hearing.
- Persistent diarrhoea or stools containing blood or mucus.
- Seizures.
- Leaking heart valves. You may experience:
  - ◆ Rapid onset of shortness of breath (especially when lying down flat in bed)
  - ◆ Swelling of the ankles, feet or abdomen
  - ◆ New onset heart palpitations
  - ◆ Damage to a major blood vessel – the aorta.
- You may experience sudden-onset severe pain in the abdomen, back or chest.

**If you experience any of the above, contact your doctor immediately.**

## What could increase my risk of side effects?

You may be at a greater risk of side effects if you have previously had serious side effects with fluoroquinolones.

Please tell your doctor if this, or any of the factors below apply to you.

### Your risk of side effects involving tendons, muscles, joints and nerves may be higher if:

- You are over 60 years old
- Your kidneys do not work well
- You have received an organ transplant
- You are taking steroid medication (such as prednisolone)

### Your risk of diarrhoea may be higher if:

- You have had other antibiotics recently
- You have had Clostridioides Difficile diarrhoea

### Your risk of seizures may be higher if:

- You have a history of seizures
- You are taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (such as ibuprofen)

### Your risk of leaking heart valves may be higher if:

- You already have heart valve disease
- You have a connective tissue disorder such as:

- ♦ Marfan syndrome
- ♦ Ehlers-Danlos syndrome

### You have risk factors for leaking heart valves such as:

- ♦ High blood pressure
- ♦ Turner's syndrome
- ♦ Behçet's disease
- ♦ Rheumatoid arthritis
- ♦ Infective endocarditis

### Your risk of damage to your aorta may be higher if:

- You have a family history of aneurysm disease
- You already have an aortic aneurysm and/or aortic dissection
- You have risk factors for aorta damage such as:
  - ♦ High blood pressure
  - ♦ Atherosclerosis
  - ♦ Marfan syndrome
  - ♦ Ehlers-Danlos syndrome
  - ♦ Takayasu or giant cell arteritis
  - ♦ Behçet's disease

**If you have Myasthenia Gravis there is a risk fluoroquinolones may worsen your condition.**