



Moxifloxacin (Avelox) Fact Sheet

What is moxifloxacin?

Moxifloxacin (Avelox) belongs to a class of drugs called quinolone antibiotics. This class of drugs has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat and protect people who have been exposed to anthrax spores. It is typically provided in a 400-mg tablet to be taken by mouth. It is unknown if moxifloxacin is safe for the use in those under 18. Consult a doctor for moxifloxacin use in children.

How do I take moxifloxacin?

Adults: Take 1 tablet once per day as directed. Try to take the tablet at the same time each day. Drink plenty of fluids with the medication.

Children: Consult your physician or prescribing entity.

Moxifloxacin dosing during an anthrax bioterrorism event:

Initial 10 day course will be provided to all individuals who may have been exposed to anthrax. An additional 50 day course will be provided to individuals that have been identified as directly exposed to anthrax in an attack.

Moxifloxacin dosing during a bioterrorism event involving Plague:

Medication will be given for at least a 10-day course for those exposed to plague. Further dosing may be required. Consult with your doctor or prescribing entity.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Start taking tablets once a day. Do not exceed 2 pills a day, even if a dose was missed. Finish all your pills, whether you feel ill or not, unless a doctor tells you to stop. Prematurely stopping treatment can result in illness, with the possibility of drug resistance.

What are the side effects of moxifloxacin?

Less serious side effects include nausea, mild diarrhea, headache, dizziness, blurred vision, nervousness, anxiety, agitation, and mild skin itching. **Allergic reactions are very rare.** If you develop a skin rash hives, swelling of the tongue, lips, or face, or other serious symptoms, consult a doctor immediately. These are signs of an allergic reaction.

Special Notice: This medicine may cause tendon problems, and may worsen the symptoms of myasthenia gravis, a condition causing muscle weakness. Tell your doctor if you experience tendon pain, swelling or tears. Also tell your doctor if you have increased muscle weakness or breathing problems while on moxifloxacin.

Precautions:

- Tell your doctor ALL medications you are currently on, including supplements and over-the-counter medication. Common medications may interact with moxifloxacin.
- Inform your doctor if you have a history of tendon problems, muscle weakness, or any other chronic medical conditions.
- Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how your body will react to this medication.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or become pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are currently breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

*For further information, contact the Oklahoma City-County Health Department:
(405) 425-4437*

WELLNESS NOW