



## Ciprofloxacin Fact Sheet

### **What is ciprofloxacin?**

Ciprofloxacin, commonly known as cipro, belongs to a class of drugs called quinolone antibiotics. It has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat and protect people who have been exposed to anthrax spores. Ciprofloxacin is usually provided in a 500-mg oral tablet or as an oral suspension for children.

### **How to take cipro?**

**Adults:** Take 1 tablet every 12 hours as directed. Each person should take all the pills in their bottle.

**Children:** A child's dose depends on body weight. Give the medication to your child as directed on additional dosing documentation.

It is best to take cipro 2 hours before or after a meal with at least one large glass of water. However, if an upset stomach occurs, cipro maybe taken with food. Avoid 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 cipro.

### **Cipro dosing in Anthrax Attack:**

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

### **What to do if you miss a dose?**

If you miss a dose, start taking one tablet every 12 hours. Do not take 2 pills to make up for the missed dose. Finish all your pills, even if you feel okay, unless your doctor tells you to stop. If you stop taking the medicine too soon, you may become ill.



## **Side effects of cipro?**

Common side effects of cipro include an upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, dizziness or headache. If you have problems with any of these symptoms, tell your doctor. Less common side effects include pain or tingling in arms and/or legs, change in vision, restlessness, ringing in ears, tendonitis, tendon rupture, or mental changes. If any of these symptoms occur, call your doctor right away. **Severe allergic reactions are very rare.** Signs of an allergic reaction include, rash, itching, swelling of the tongue, hands or feet, fever, or trouble breathing. If any of these symptoms occur, call your doctor right away.

**Special note for children:** This medicine may cause joint problems in infants and children under 18 years of age. If your child has any joint pain while he/she is taking cipro, tell your doctor.

## **Precautions:**

Be sure to tell the doctor if you are allergic to any medicine. It is very important to tell your doctor about ALL of the medicine you are currently taking even pills that were bought at the store such as vitamins and antacids. Tell the doctor if you have ever had a seizure, stroke, or problems with your kidneys, joints or tendons, liver, or vision. Report any history of unusual bleeding or bruising. -If this drug makes you dizzy, use caution driving or doing tasks that require you to be alert. Avoid alcohol in this case as it will make the dizziness worse. Cipro can make skin very sensitive to the sun which increases the chance of getting severe sunburn. Avoid sun as much as possible. When outside, wear long sleeve shirt and hat and always apply sunscreen (30 SPF). In women, cipro can cause vaginal itching and discharge known as a yeast infection. Tell your doctor if this occurs. If you are pregnant or breast feeding tell your doctor. As safety of cipro during pregnancy is unknown. If you are pregnant or become pregnant, tell your doctor. Cipro can increase the effect of caffeine and theophylline (a medicine).

*For further information1 contact the Oklahoma City-County Health  
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