

# What You Should Know About Ciprofloxacin (or Cipro)



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

### What is Ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin is a bacteria-killing drug also known as an antibiotic. Prescribed for several reasons, ciprofloxacin can be used to protect people who have come into contact with someone who has meningitis, a bacterial infection of the brain lining and/or blood.

### Who should not take this medication?

Do **not** take ciprofloxacin if:

- you are under 18 years of age;
- you are pregnant or think you may be;
- you are breastfeeding; or
- you have had a severe allergic reaction to ciprofloxacin or other quinolone antibiotic.

### Will Ciprofloxacin affect any other drugs I might be taking?

Ciprofloxacin may occasionally cause problems in combination with other drugs, so **always** let your doctor or pharmacist know you are taking it.

### What side effects can result from Ciprofloxacin?

The most common side effects are nausea and diarrhea. These occur in about 2 of every 100 people taking this drug. In very rare cases, the drug could cause a severe allergic reaction.

### How should you take Ciprofloxacin?

- Always follow the directions on the container label
- For best results, take it on an empty stomach. This means one hour before meals or two hours after.
- Do **not** take ciprofloxacin at the same time as:
  - antacids containing aluminum or magnesium
  - sucralfate (brand name: sulcrate)
  - iron supplements such as ferrous sulfate, ferrous fumarate, ferrous gluconate
  - calcium supplements
  - antiretrovirals (medication prescribed for AIDS)

### Need more information?

Contact your local public health nurse, family doctor or pharmacist.