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Fluoroquinolone antibiotics

(Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Ofloxacin and Delafloxacin)

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید، لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie, proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil, vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式,请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أُخرى، أو بتنسيق يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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What are fluoroquinolone antibiotics?

Fluoroquinolones (e.g. Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Ofloxacin and Delafloxacin) are a family of antibiotics, used to treat severe infections caused by bacteria.

When would I be given them?

Your doctor may decide to give you a fluoroquinolone, if it is the most effective antibiotic for your infection. They will only do so, after carefully considering the risks to you and benefits of a fluoroquinolone over other options.

How should I take them?

Usually fluoroquinolones are taken orally once or twice a day.

Dairy products (e.g. milk or yoghurt) or foods/drinks with added calcium, iron and magnesium may reduce how well your antibiotics are absorbed by the body. You should take your fluoroquinolone antibiotic, at least 1-2 hours before or at least 4 hours after these products.

Are there any side effects?

Fluoroquinolones can cause rare but serious side effects involving tendons, muscles, joints, blood vessels, heart valves and nerves. In a small number of patients, these effects may be long-lasting or permanent. It has been estimated that between 1-10 per 10,000 patients treated with fluoroquinolone antibiotics, will be affected by these side effects.

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.

Your notes:

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
 - Behcet's disease

Your risk of experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviour may be higher if:

You have a history of depression or psychosis

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

If you experience any of the following symptoms, stop taking your fluoroquinolone antibiotic and contact your doctor immediately:

- Tendon pain or swelling, often at the beginning of the ankle or calf. These usually happen within 48 hours of starting a fluoroquinolone. However this may not occur until several months after stopping treatment.
- 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 of severe pain in the abdomen, back or chest

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- Changes in mood or behaviour including new or worsening low mood (depression) and loss of contact with reality (psychosis). You may experience:
 - Hallucinations where a person hears, sees and, in some cases, feels, smells or tastes things that do not exist outside their mind, but can feel very real to the person affected by them
 - Delusions where a person has strong beliefs that are not shared by others
 - Disordered thinking and speaking a person's thoughts and ideas come very quickly, which can make their speech fast and confusing.

In rare cases, these feelings can get worse and may even lead to thoughts of suicide. These side effects can occur even after the first dose.

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.