

QUINOLONE ANTIBIOTICS



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE



ABOUT your medicine

The quinolones are a group of antibiotics which may be used in the treatment of bacterial infections. These may include infections of the urinary tract, respiratory tract, gastro-intestinal system, eye and ear.

Examples of quinolone antibiotics are ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, ofloxacin, moxifloxacin, gatifloxacin and nalidixic acid.

HOW should I take the medicine?

Oral formulations of ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and nalidixic acid should be taken on an empty stomach. Oral formulations of moxifloxacin, gatifloxacin and ofloxacin may be taken with or without food.

Do not take milk or dairy products, indigestion remedies such as antacids or medicines containing iron, zinc, calcium or aluminium at the same time of the day as the quinolones. They can bind to the quinolones and reduce their absorption by the body. They should be taken 2-4 hours apart from the quinolones.

The course of antibiotics should be completed even though you may feel better as inadequate treatment can lead to recurrence of infection or result in the development of resistance to treatment.

What should I do if I FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

*Keep all medication out of reach of children
Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required*

What are the possible SIDE-EFFECTS of the medicine?

You may experience nausea, vomiting or anorexia or minor taste disturbances (small frequent meals or sucking lozenges may help relieve these symptoms). You may experience increased sensitivity to sunlight (use sunblock, wear protective clothing and avoid excessive exposure to sunlight when you are on these medicines).

Some other common side-effects include dyspepsia, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, headache and dizziness.

Consult the doctor immediately if you develop any skin rashes, joint or tendon pain or inflammation, swollen face, breathing difficulties or severe and bloody diarrhoea. You should also promptly seek medical help if you develop chest pain or heart palpitations.

What PRECAUTIONS should I take?

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if

- you have other medical conditions such as fits, G6PD deficiency, myasthenia gravis.
- you are already taking some other medicines (especially certain painkillers such as NSAIDs, theophylline, cyclosporin, probenecid, anticoagulants such as warfarin), herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.
- you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing or widespread itchy skin rashes.
- you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment.
- you have pre-existing heart problems or are on any medication that regulates your heart rate and rhythm.
- you have a history of fits or are on any medication that prevents fits.

How should I STORE the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.