

Oral Fluroquinolone Antibiotic Information

Fluroquinolones are broad-spectrum oral antibiotics that may be prescribed for you by your doctor to treat an ear infection. The most well-known antibiotics are Cipro (ciprofloxacin), Levaquin (levofloxacin), and Avelox (moxifloxacin). The following information is most relevant to the oral form of the antibiotic and not the topical form that come in the form of ear drops.

Calcium can bind this antibiotic and make it ineffective, so it is recommended that you avoid taking dairy products, calcium supplements, or calcium containing antacids for 2 hours before and 2 hours after taking this medication.

The antibiotic is generally well-tolerated. However, a rare but serious complication from taking this antibiotic includes tendonitis or tendon rupture. The first signs of this complication include tendon pain, swelling or inflammation. The risk of developing this complication increases in older patients (>60 years of age), patients taking corticosteroids, and patients with a history of an organ transplant. If you develop any these signs, please stop taking your medication and contact your healthcare provider.

Other rare complications include peripheral neuropathy which can manifest as pain, burning, tingling numbness or weakness of the arms or legs. Patients with a history of Myasthenia Gravis can experience worsening of their symptoms while on the medication.