

Ciprofloxacin to Prevent Invasive Meningococcal Disease

Patient Information Leaflet

The aim of this information sheet is to provide details about the use of Ciprofloxacin to patients and carers. The information may differ from that provided by the manufacturer. Please read it carefully and keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

The antibiotic you will be given is called Ciprofloxacin. The meningococcal bacteria (germs) that cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (bacteria in the blood) can be carried in the nose and throat. This antibiotic will kill them and therefore help to prevent any further spread of the infection.

WHAT IS CIPROFLOXACIN AVAILABLE AS?

- ❖ **Tablets:** 100 mg; 250mg; 500mg; 750mg
- ❖ **Liquid medicine:** 250mg in 5mL (strawberry flavoured)

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE/GIVE CIPROFLOXACIN?

- ❖ Ciprofloxacin is given as a **one-off** dose

HOW MUCH CIPROFLOXACIN SHOULD I TAKE/GIVE?

Your doctor will work out the dose and it will be clearly shown on the medicine label. It is important that you take/ give the exact amount as shown on the label.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE/GIVE CIPROFLOXACIN?

Tablets: swallow with plenty of fluid. If required, the tablets can be crushed and will dissolve, especially when given to young children. Can either be taken at mealtimes or between meals.

Liquid medicine (suspension): measure out the right amount using a proper medicine spoon or oral syringe. You can get these from your pharmacist.

- ❖ **Do not** drink alcohol with this medication as it may make you drowsy.
- ❖ **Do not** take Ciprofloxacin tablets or suspension with dairy products such as milk or yoghurt or with fortified fruit juices such as calcium-fortified orange juice.

CAN OTHER MEDICINES BE GIVEN AT THE SAME TIME AS CIPROFLOXACIN?

- ❖ You can take/ give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- ❖ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking/ giving any other medicines to your child, including herbal or complementary medicines
- ❖ Ciprofloxacin does not interfere with the oral contraceptive pill.

INFORM YOUR DOCTOR IF

- ❖ You/your child is allergic to ciprofloxacin, has a history of epilepsy or seizures or glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD) as a different medicine may be more appropriate.

ARE THERE ANY POSSIBLE SIDE-EFFECTS FROM CIPROFLOXACIN?

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic that is frequently used to treat lots of different conditions. However it may have some side-effects and these may include:

- ❖ Tummy ache, diarrhoea and nausea. (if you/your child vomits within 30 minutes of the dose, contact the prescriber or your doctor)

- ❖ Tiredness and headaches.
- ❖ Rash and itching.
- ❖ Pain and inflammation around the joints
- ❖ **Facial swelling** - very rarely breathing difficulties may occur with the facial swelling. **You should seek medical attention urgently if this occurs.**

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

Your doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about Ciprofloxacin and about meningitis.

You can also get more information from:

NHS 24 (Scotland): 08454 24 24 24
<http://www.nhs24.com/content/>

NHS Inform:
<http://www.nhsinform.co.uk/>

Meningitis Research Foundation 24 hour helpline: 080 8800 3344 (**Freefone**) or website www.meningitis.org
A leaflet called 'Am I at risk. Meningitis and Septicaemia' gives information on signs and symptoms of meningococcal infection.

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