

# Ancef (cefazolin) basics

**Treats bacterial infections.** Ancef (cefazolin) is only available as an injectable, so it is usually only used in the hospital. It's good for treating many bacterial infections.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- If you have to take Ancef (cefazolin) at home, your doctor will place a small tube into your skin. You or a nurse will inject the medicine directly into this tube. Store Ancef (cefazolin) in the fridge. To make the injection more comfortable, take the medicine out of the fridge 30 minutes before you use it and let it sit at room temperature.
- Before taking Ancef (cefazolin), tell your doctor if you are allergic to cephalosporins, penicillins, or any other medications.
- Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you get a rash, itchy skin, trouble breathing, or swelling in your face or mouth.
- Diarrhea is a common side effect that should go away when you stop the medicine; tell your doctor if it doesn't stop.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Allergic reaction

Although rare, Ancef (cefazolin) can cause a severe and life-threatening allergic reaction. Let your doctor know of any allergies to antibiotics. If you get a rash, itchy skin, hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of your face or mouth while taking Ancef (cefazolin), talk to your doctor or go to the emergency room right away.

### Seizure

Rarely, seizures have happened to people while taking Ancef (cefazolin). This is most likely to happen if you've had kidney damage. Let your doctor know if you have kidney problems.

### Diarrhea

As with all antibiotics, Ancef (cefazolin) can cause diarrhea. It usually goes away after you're done with the medicine. Taking yogurt or probiotic supplements a few hours after you take the medication may help. Rarely, some people can have a severe form of diarrhea that happens a few weeks after you take Ancef (cefazolin). The symptoms include severe pain with loose or bloody stools. Talk to your doctor right away if this happens.