

Claforan (cefotaxime) basics

Treats bacterial infections. Claforan (cefotaxime) is good for treating many bacterial infections, but it is only available as an injectable, so it is usually only used in the hospital.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Claforan (cefotaxime) Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar spanning Hours, Days, and Weeks]				
Possible side effects	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Diarrhea†	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Severe diarrhea (C. difficile)†			[Red bar spanning Weeks, Months, and Long term]		
Allergic reaction†	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Low blood counts†	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Injection site reaction†	[Red bar in Hours]				
Rash 2% chance	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Claforan (cefotaxime) is usually given in the hospital. If you have to take it at home, your doctor will place a small tube into your skin to inject the medicine.
- Store Claforan (cefotaxime) in the fridge, but take it out and leave it at room temperature for at least 30 minutes before you inject it.
- Before taking Claforan (cefotaxime), 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 medication. Tell your doctor if it doesn't stop, or if you develop very watery or bloody stools.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Allergic reaction

Although rare, Claforan (cefotaxime) can cause a severe and life-threatening allergic reaction. This is more likely to occur if you have had an allergic reaction to penicillin-type antibiotics before. Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any antibiotics. If you get a rash, itchy skin, hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of your face or mouth while taking Claforan (cefotaxime), talk to your doctor or go to the emergency room right away.

Diarrhea

As with all antibiotics, Claforan (cefotaxime) 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 Claforan (cefotaxime). The symptoms include severe pain with loose or bloody stools. Talk to your doctor right away if this happens.

Low white blood cell counts

Rarely, Claforan (cefotaxime) has caused low white blood cells, which makes it harder for your body to fight off infections. It is more likely to happen if you've been taking Claforan (cefotaxime) for more than 10 days. Talk to your doctor right away if you start to feel sick again after taking Claforan (cefotaxime). Symptoms can include fever and chills, dizziness, weakness, or fatigue.