

# Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil) basics

**Treats bacterial infections.** Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil) is good for treating many bacterial infections, but be sure to take the full course without stopping so that the medication can work.

## 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
<b>Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Possible side effects</b>					
<b>Diarrhea</b> 4% chance	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Nausea/vomiting</b> 3% chance	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Rash†</b>		[Red bar from Days to Days]			
<b>Vaginal inflammation†</b>		[Red bar from Days to Days]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Finish all of the medicine your doctor gives you, even if you start to feel better. Stopping it early might cause the medicine to not work the next time you need it.
- You can take the pill form of Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil) with or without food. The liquid suspension form of Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil) should be taken with food.
- Store the liquid in the refrigerator and shake it well before using. Throw away the bottle after 10 days.
- If you have phenylketonuria (PKU), talk with your doctor as some products may have phenylalanine.
- Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil) can make hormonal birth control not work as well, so you should use a second form of non-hormonal birth control (like condoms) while taking it. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Allergic reaction

Although rare, Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil) 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 Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil), talk to your doctor or go to the emergency room right away.

### New infection

Taking antibiotics, like Ceftin (cefuroxime axetil), can raise your chance of getting a new bacterial or fungal infection. If you start to feel sick or get a fever again while taking this medicine, talk to your doctor right away.

### Diarrhea

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