

# Cipro (ciprofloxacin) basics

**Treats bacterial infections.** Cipro (ciprofloxacin) is a good, cheap antibiotic that treats many types of bacterial infections, but it interacts with some food and drugs.

## 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>Cipro (ciprofloxacin)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
<b>Possible side effects</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Nausea</b> 3% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Diarrhea</b> 2% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Vomiting†</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Rash†</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Headache†</b>	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take with or without food.
- Cipro (ciprofloxacin) can cause sensitivity to sunlight, which might make you burn easily. Wear sunscreen or protective clothing if you're going to be exposed to the sun.
- Avoid taking this medication alone with dairy products (milk, cheese, yogurt) or juice with calcium.
- Take this medication at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after any antacids with magnesium or aluminum or with any vitamins with calcium, iron, or zinc.
- Limit your caffeine intake while taking this medication. Cipro (ciprofloxacin) might increase the effects of caffeine in your body.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that require you to be alert until you see how Cipro (ciprofloxacin) affects you.

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Tendon rupture

Cipro (ciprofloxacin) can cause the tendons in your body to swell up and rupture. If you experience swelling, pain or inflammation in your joints or muscles while taking this medicine, contact your doctor right away. This problem with your tendons can happen as quickly as within hours of taking the first dose up to several months after stopping the medicine. People with a history of tendon disorders should avoid taking Cipro (ciprofloxacin).

### Myasthenia gravis

Cipro (ciprofloxacin) can worsen muscle weakness for people who have myasthenia gravis. In severe cases, this can cause death. If you have myasthenia gravis, talk to your doctor about other treatment options.

### Nerve damage

Talk to your doctor immediately if you start to feel burning, tingling, numbness, or pain in your body, especially your hands and feet. Cipro (ciprofloxacin) can cause nerve damage and it can be irreversible. If you already have problems with nerve damage, talk to your doctor before taking this medication.