

Keflex (cephalexin) basics

Treats bacterial infections. Keflex (cephalexin) is good for treating many bacterial infections, and is available as a generic.

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
Keflex (cephalexin) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Diarrhea	[Red gradient bar]				
Allergic reaction	[Red gradient bar]				
New infection			[Red gradient bar]		

† 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 can cause the bacteria to develop resistance.
- Store the suspension in the refrigerator. Shake well before using, and discard the bottle after 14 days.
- Can take with or without food.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Diarrhea

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

New infections while taking Keflex (cephalexin)

Sometimes new infections can happen while you're taking Keflex (cephalexin) to treat another infection. This can happen if your body isn't strong enough to fight infections off, or if you're not taking Keflex (cephalexin) correctly. If you find that you're not feeling better after you're done with Keflex (cephalexin), or you develop a new fever or get sicker while taking Keflex (cephalexin), talk to your doctor right away.

Allergic reaction

If you've had an allergic reaction from taking penicillin- or cephalosporin-type antibiotics, such as trouble breathing or swelling in your face and neck, let your doctor know before taking this medicine. Keflex (cephalexin) might not be right for you, and your doctor can prescribe another antibiotic.