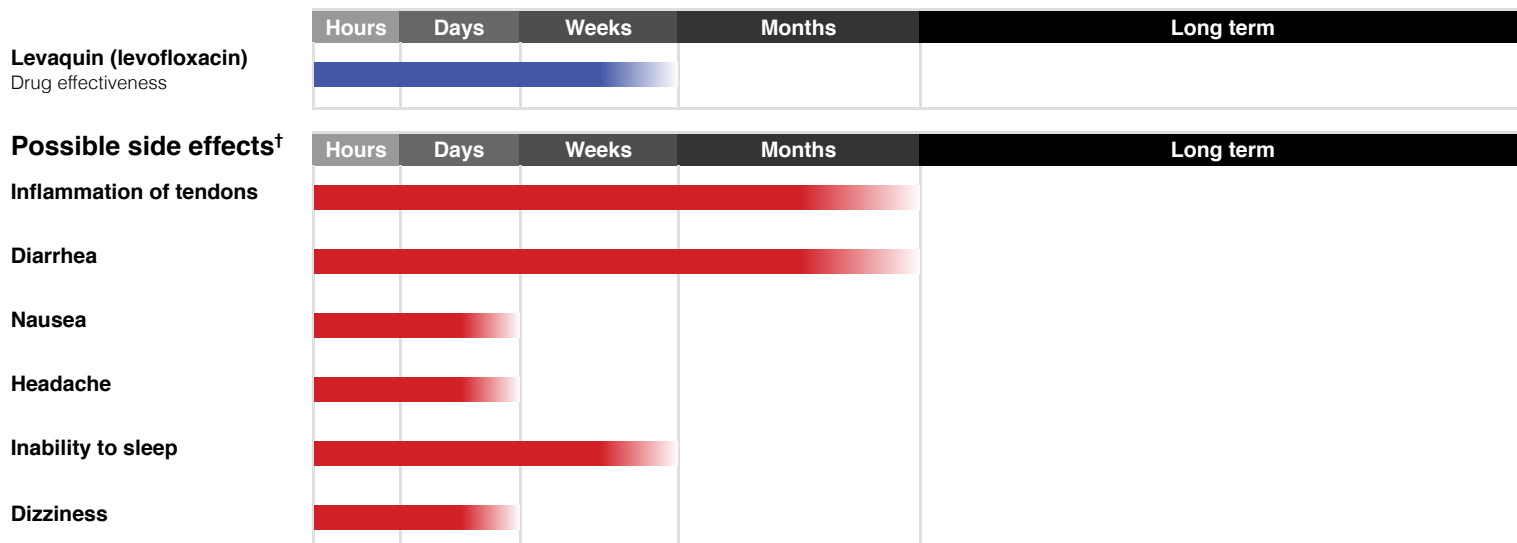


# Levaquin (levofloxacin) basics

**Treats bacterial infections.** Levaquin (levofloxacin) effectively treats different types of bacterial infections, but it is relatively more expensive than some of its alternatives.

## 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

- You can take the pill form of Levaquin (levofloxacin) with or without food. Take the liquid form 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
- If you experience pain in your tendons, muscle weakness, or numbness, talk to your doctor right away.
- Levaquin (levofloxacin) can increase your sensitivity to sunlight so wear sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Take this medicine with plenty of fluids.
- Take Levaquin (levofloxacin) at least 2 hours before or 2 hours after any antacids or multivitamins containing magnesium, aluminum, iron or zinc.
- People with diabetes should monitor their blood sugar while taking this medicine.

## 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 and inflammation

Levaquin (levofloxacin) 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 and you will likely be switched to a different treatment option. 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 Levaquin (levofloxacin).

### Myasthenia gravis

Levaquin (levofloxacin) can worsen the symptom of muscle weakness and in more serious cases can cause death for people with a history of myasthenia gravis so they shouldn't be taking this medicine. Talk to a doctor about alternative treatment options.

### Diarrhea

Levaquin (levofloxacin) can change the natural state of your gut and possibly increase your risk of getting a severe bacterial infection. If you experience watery and bloody diarrhea after you start taking this medicine, tell your doctor right away. Sometimes this can happen even up to 1 to 2 months after you have already stopped taking Levaquin (levofloxacin).