

Omnicef (cefdinir) basics

Treats bacterial infections. Omnicef (cefdinir) is good for treating many common bacterial infections.

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
Omnicef (cefdinir) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Diarrhea 15% chance					
Allergic reaction†					
New infection†					
Vaginal yeast infection 4% chance					
Nausea 3% chance					
Headache 2% chance					

† 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, and the medicine might not work the next time you need it.
- If you're taking the suspension, shake the bottle well before you take each dose.
- Store the suspension at room temperature and discard 10 days after opening.
- You can take Omnicef (cefdinir) with or without food.
- If you take iron supplements or antacids (such as TUMS), separate taking them from Omnicef (cefdinir) by at least 2 hours.
- If you're taking iron supplements at the same time, it can interact with Omnicef (cefdinir) and turn your stools red. This is normal.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Diarrhea

Like all antibiotics, Omnicef (cefdinir) can cause diarrhea, but it normally goes away after you finish the medicine. Taking yogurt or probiotic supplements a few hours after taking Omnicef (cefdinir) may help. Rarely, Omnicef (cefdinir) can cause a severe form of diarrhea. If you still have diarrhea after finishing Omnicef (cefdinir), or your diarrhea worsens or becomes bloody, talk to your doctor right away.

Allergic reaction

If you have had an allergic reaction from taking penicillin-type antibiotics, such as trouble breathing or swelling in your face and neck, let your doctor know before taking Omnicef (cefdinir). It might not be the right medicine for you and your doctor can prescribe another antibiotic.

Drug interactions

Certain minerals (iron, aluminum, and magnesium) bind to Omnicef (cefdinir) in the stomach and prevent it from getting absorbed. If you're taking antacids such as TUMS, iron supplements, or multivitamins that have these minerals, separate them from Omnicef (cefdinir) by at least 2 hours. Otherwise, Omnicef (cefdinir) won't work as well to fight the bacterial infection since there's less of it in your system.