

Ciprofloxacin

An antibiotic for close contact of a person with meningococcal disease

This information should be read in conjunction with the fact sheet on meningococcal disease which can be found at:

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files//MeningococcalDisease2018.pdf>

Why is it recommended that I take ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic which is usually offered to people who have had close contact with a person who has developed meningococcal disease. The purpose of taking this antibiotic is to get rid of any meningococcal bacteria being 'carried' in the nose and throat of contacts and therefore help prevent the disease from spreading to others.

How is ciprofloxacin taken?

Ciprofloxacin comes in tablet form which can be taken by adults and children 5 years of age and older (with the dose dependant on age). It is taken as a single dose by mouth with a full glass of water. It is best absorbed if you take it 1 hour before, or 2 hours after meals. It is important to drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day after taking this antibiotic.

IMPORTANT: Before you start taking ciprofloxacin, tell your treating health professional if you are taking **any** medications (including herbal and over-the-counter products) or have **any** medical conditions. Ciprofloxacin does not interfere with the oral contraceptive pill.

Are there any side effects of ciprofloxacin?

- All medications have side effects. For a full list of side effects, ask your health provider for a copy of the ciprofloxacin Consumer Medicine Information document.
- Ciprofloxacin is usually well-tolerated. Common side effects include tiredness or mild stomach ache, but these effects usually settle quickly and are not cause for concern.
- Ciprofloxacin can be safely taken if you are breastfeeding but it may cause diarrhoea in the infant.
- A **very** uncommon side effect is allergic reaction to ciprofloxacin (e.g. facial swelling, breathing difficulties, or rash). If at any time you feel unwell after taking this medication, you should seek **immediate** medical attention.

Who should not take ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin is not recommended for people who:

- are pregnant;
- are taking certain medications (talk to your treating health professional);
- have had a previous allergic reaction to ciprofloxacin; and/or
- have taken antacid/indigestion medications or medications that contain iron or mineral supplements within the previous 4 hours.

IMPORTANT: Ciprofloxacin for close contacts is not the same as treatment for meningococcal disease. So even though you have been recommended this antibiotic, it is important to monitor for symptoms of the disease, as outlined in the meningococcal disease fact sheet and seek urgent medical attention if symptoms occur.

Need more information?

For more information about meningococcal disease, contact your doctor or call the Health Protection Service, Communicable Disease Control Information Line during business hours on **(02) 6205 2155**.

Communicable Disease Control Section at Health Protection Service is responsible for the investigation and surveillance of notifiable or infectious conditions in the ACT in order to control or prevent their spread in the community. This includes the promotion of immunisation, education and other strategies that help to limit the spread of diseases.

Acknowledgement

Australian Government, Department of Health, Invasive Meningococcal Disease SoNG 2014 (revised March 2017). Available at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/cdna-song-imd.htm>

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