

Ciprofloxacin

for close contacts of meningococcal disease

What is Meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious bacterial disease which can cause severe illness or death if not treated quickly with antibiotics. If you have been in close contact with someone with meningococcal disease early in their illness, you are a contact. This means, see your doctor if you get any of the symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

- ✓ fever
- ✓ any rash
- ✓ nausea
- ✓ eye sensitivity to light
- ✓ vomiting
- ✓ headache
- ✓ stiff neck

Please see the NT Health meningococcal disease fact sheet for more information.

What is Ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic that stops the transfer and spread of meningococcal disease if you have been exposed to it. It does not stop the disease.

It is still important to look for symptoms of the disease and seek urgent medical attention if you experience any that you get within 10 days of seeing an infected person.

Before you take this medicine, tell your doctor:

- ✓ If you have an allergy to Ciprofloxacin
- ✓ If you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- ✓ If you have nerve or tendon problems
- ✓ If you have heart failure or recent heart attack
- ✓ If you have an aortic aneurysm
- ✓ If you have the autoimmune disorder Myasthenia gravis

How do I take Ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin is given as a tablet.

The tablet should be swallowed with a full glass of water, taken either 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.

Drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day after taking this medicine.

Do not take the tablet if you have taken indigestion/heartburn/reflux medicines or products containing calcium, iron or zinc (including dairy products like milk or calcium-fortified juice) within the last 4 hours.

What are the side effects of Ciprofloxacin?

There are not many side effects of taking Ciprofloxacin. Common side effects include tiredness, mild stomach ache or diarrhoea. These usually settle quickly.

An allergic reaction to Ciprofloxacin includes:

- ✓ facial swelling
- ✓ breathing difficulties
- ✓ any rash

If you ever feel unwell after taking this medicine, please seek immediate medical attention.

Ciprofloxacin is safe to be taken while breastfeeding but can give the baby diarrhoea.

For a full list of side effects, please see the Ciprofloxacin Consumer Medicine Information document.

For more information contact the Centre for Disease Control in your region.

Alice Springs : 8951 7540
Darwin : 8922 8044
Katherine : 8973 9049
Nhulunbuy : 8987 0357
Tennant Creek : 8962 4259

Centre for Disease Control contacts | NT Health

