

Who is more likely to be affected by side effects?

Tendon side effects are more likely to occur in:

- ◆ People older than 60 years of age
- ◆ People treated with corticosteroids, such as prednisolone or hydrocortisone.
- ◆ People whose kidneys do not work well
- ◆ People who have had solid organ transplants
- ◆ People who participate in high impact exercise involving running or jumping. It is best to avoid running and jumping while taking fluoroquinolones.

Aortic aneurysm or aortic dissection is more likely if you have:

- ◆ A family history of aneurysm disease
- ◆ Pre-existing aortic aneurysm or aortic dissection
- ◆ Marfan syndrome, vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Takayasu arteritis, giant cell arteritis or Behçet's disease
- ◆ Hypertension
- ◆ Atherosclerosis



Always read the leaflet that comes with your medicines.

You can ask your pharmacist or nurse for a leaflet if you did not receive one. Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are concerned about your medicines.

Information provided in this leaflet has been adapted from:

- ◆ European Medicines Agency. Fluoroquinolone and quinolone antibiotics: PRAC recommends restrictions on use. October 2018.
- ◆ Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. Fluoroquinolone antibiotics (-oxacins): what you need to know about side effects of tendons, muscles, joints, and nerves. March 2019
- ◆ Direct Healthcare Professional Communication 23rd October 2018. Systemic and inhaled fluoroquinolones: risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection.

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**Medication Safety
at St. John's Hospital**

Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics



Patient Information Leaflet

What are Fluoroquinolones?

Fluoroquinolones (also known as quinolones) are a type of antibiotic that can be used to treat infections caused by certain kinds of bacteria. Examples of names of these antibiotics include:

- ◆ Ciprofloxacin also known as Ciproxin or Cifox or Truoxin
- ◆ Levofloxacin also known as Tavager or Tavanic
- ◆ Moxifloxacin also known as Avelox
- ◆ Ofloxacin also known as Tarivid

Warning:

Fluoroquinolones can very rarely cause side effects which can be serious and disabling and which may be long-lasting or permanent.

The side effects may occur after you have stopped taking the fluoroquinolone.

Uses of Fluoroquinolones

Due to the risk of serious side effects, fluoroquinolones can only be used for:

- ◆ Serious infections
- ◆ Mild or moderate infections where the usual antibiotics are not suitable for the patient;- mainly because the bacteria may be resistant to other choices.

When Fluoroquinolones should **not** be used:

- ◆ Mild infections such as sore throat or acute bronchitis
- ◆ Viruses
- ◆ For preventing traveller's diarrhoea or recurring bladder infections
- ◆ When someone has had a serious side effect with a fluoroquinolone in the past.

Stop taking the fluoroquinolone and contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following side effects:

- ◆ Tendon pain or swelling, often beginning in ankle or calf. If this happens, rest the painful area until you are seen by a doctor.
- ◆ Pain in your joints or swelling in your shoulder, arms or legs.
- ◆ Pain or sensations such as pins and needles, tingling, tickling, numbness, or burning. Weakness in your body, especially in the legs or arms, or difficulty walking
- ◆ Severe tiredness, depressed mood, anxiety or problems with your memory or severe problems sleeping
- ◆ Changes in your vision, taste, smell or hearing

In the case of severe stomach, chest or back pain get immediate medical attention at an emergency department.

This is due to risk of aortic aneurysm or aortic dissection: where an important artery bursts leading to internal bleeding and risk of death.