

Ciprofloxacin

(sip-roe-flox-a-sin)

Description:

Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Cipro®

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: None. **Human:** 100 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg, & 750 mg tablets; 500 mg & 1000 mg long-acting tablets; 250 mg/5 mL (50 mg/mL) & 500 mg/5 mL (100 mg/mL) oral suspension.

Antimicrobial Classification:

Critically Important

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- Ciprofloxacin is best given on an empty stomach, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it, give with food or small treat (no dairy products, antacids, or anything containing iron) to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- Do not give at the same time as other drugs or vitamins that contain calcium, iron, or aluminum (including sucralfate) as these can reduce the amount of drug absorbed.
 - May cause joint abnormalities if used in young animals, during pregnancy, or while nursing.
 - Most common side effects are vomiting, diarrhea, or lack of an appetite.

How is this medication useful?

Ciprofloxacin is used to treat some infections in animals. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- Other drugs can interact with ciprofloxacin, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.
- If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

- If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 hours; however, you may not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your animal should begin feeling better within 1 to 2 days. The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal. Keep it out of the reach of children.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in:

- Animals that are allergic to it or drugs like it (eg, enrofloxacin).
- Immature dogs during the rapid growth phase (between 2-8 months in small and medium-sized breeds; up to 18 months in large and giant breeds).
- Animals that are pregnant or nursing unless the benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to offspring.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- That have a history of seizures.
- That have liver or kidney problems.
- That are dehydrated.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- Vomiting, diarrhea, or lack of an appetite.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Joint (cartilage) effects (eg, trouble walking) especially in young growing animals.
- Central nervous system effects including stimulation (eg, overly excited) or seizures (rare), especially in animals with liver or kidney problems.
- Blindness in cats. Large doses of this drug could cause blindness in cats.
- Fever, rashes, or trouble breathing may indicate an allergy to the drug.
- Complete loss of appetite in cats can sometimes cause severe liver problems.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of ciprofloxacin could be serious. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- This drug is best given without food on an empty stomach, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it on an empty stomach, give with food or a small treat (no dairy products, antacids or anything containing iron) to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully and should be shaken well each time before giving it to your animal. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes. Liquid forms of this drug should be discarded on the day your veterinarian or pharmacist has indicated.
- If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- Store this medication in its original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container. Ciprofloxacin tablets should be stored at room temperature and protected from light.
- The reconstituted oral suspension should be stored at room temperature for up to 14 days. Protect from freezing.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

- People with a known allergy to quinolones (eg, moxifloxacin) should avoid contact with the product.
- Avoid skin and eye contact with this drug and wash hands well after each use. In case of accidental contact with the eyes or skin, wash the affected area immediately with water.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- This drug is banned from use in food animals.
- Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.