

## CIPROFLOXACIN

*sip-roh-flox-ah-sin*

### What does it do?

*Ciprofloxacin* is an antibiotic used to treat and prevent bacterial infections.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems, G6PD deficiency, or if you have ever had a seizure or an aneurysm.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- Your doctor may do a heart test (ECG) before you start and while you are taking *ciprofloxacin*.

### How should you take it?

Take *ciprofloxacin* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food, but not with milk or yoghurt. Taking it with milk or yoghurt may stop *ciprofloxacin* from working.

Keep taking it until the course is finished, even when you start to feel better.

### What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

### Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *ciprofloxacin* including:

- products containing aluminium, calcium, iron, magnesium or zinc, such as antacids (e.g. Mylanta®) or multivitamins

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action              |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Pain or swelling in tendons or joints<br>Sharp, sudden pain in your tummy, chest or back<br>Fainting<br>Seizures   | Tell your doctor immediately    |
| Confusion, agitation, unusual behaviour or thinking<br>Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes<br>Changes in vision<br>Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain<br>Skin rash | Tell your doctor                |
| Headache, dizziness<br>Stomach upset   | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *ciprofloxacin*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- *Ciprofloxacin* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)