CEFALEXIN
(also known as CEPHALEXIN)

Cefalexin is an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections. It will not work against viral infections such as colds or flu.

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<thead>
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<th>Reason for antibiotic:</th>
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<td>Planned duration:</td>
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<td>My doctor's name:</td>
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<td>Doctor's contact details:</td>
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How do I take cefalexin?

- Cefalexin can be taken **with or without food**.
- If taking cefalexin as an **oral capsule**: Swallow each capsule whole with a glass of water.
- If taking cefalexin as an **oral liquid**: Make sure you shake the bottle well before measuring your dose.

What do I need to be aware of before I take cefalexin?

- Discuss any **previous allergy** to antibiotics, such as penicillins or penicillin-based antibiotics with your doctor.
- Discuss any **pre-existing medical conditions** with your doctor.

The information contained in this brochure is for educational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for consultation with a doctor or health care professional. Ask your pharmacist or doctor if you have any additional questions or would like more detailed information about this medicine. Last reviewed: 28th November 2023 | Next review by December 2026.

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Discuss other medicines you are currently taking or plan to start taking (including herbal and over-the-counter medicines) with your doctor and/or pharmacist. This is to ensure cefalexin is safe to take together with your current medicines.

Pregnancy: Cefalexin is considered safe to use in pregnancy.

Breastfeeding: Cefalexin is considered safe to use in breastfeeding. The breastfed infant should be monitored for diarrhoea, vomiting, thrush and skin rash.

Common side effects of cefalexin:

- Cefalexin is generally well tolerated in most people.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and headache; usually mild and improves over a few days.

Rare reactions and/or side effects of cefalexin to be aware of:

- Allergic reactions such as a rash, itch, blisters or red skin spots; stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- Signs of a serious allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, eyes or lips; call for an ambulance immediately OR present to the accident and emergency department at your nearest hospital immediately.
- Changes in kidney function and/or reduced blood cells in your body. Signs of reduced blood cells include unexplained tiredness, shortness of breath when exercising, dizziness, bleeding, bruising or looking pale. During prolonged treatment (for example, longer than 2 weeks), your doctor may request a blood test to check the number of blood cells in your body and your kidney function.