

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.

Reason for antibiotic:	
Planned duration:	
My doctor's name:	
Doctor's contact details:	

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.