

# Cefuroxime

## **Why is this medication prescribed?**

Cefuroxime is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections. This medication is known as a cephalosporin antibiotic. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

## **How should this medicine be used?**

Take this medication by mouth usually twice daily, or as directed by your doctor. Take cefuroxime with food to increase absorption and reduce stomach upset. Dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy.

Swallow the tablets whole. Do not crush or chew because the tablets have a strong bitter taste. Use the liquid suspension form of this medication if it is difficult to swallow the tablets.

Antibiotics work best when the amount of medicine in your body is kept at a constant level. Therefore, take this drug at evenly spaced intervals.

Continue to take this medication until the full-prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection.

## **What special precautions should I follow?**

Before taking cefuroxime, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to penicillins or other cephalosporin antibiotics (e.g., cephalexin); or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of kidney disease, intestinal disease (colitis), liver disease, poor nutrition.

This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages.

Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to its effects.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risk and benefits with your doctor.

This medication passes into breast milk.

## **What should I do if I forget a dose?**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

### **What side effects can this medication cause?**

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- fever, sore throat, and headache with a severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash;
- seizure (black-out or convulsions); or
- jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin).

Less serious side effects may include:

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain;
- headache, dizziness;
- fussiness or crying (in children);
- sleep problems (insomnia); or
- vaginal itching or discharge.

### **What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?**

Store at room temperature between 15-30 degrees C away from light and moisture

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.



### **What other information should I know?**

Do not take this medication if you are allergic to cefuroxime or to similar antibiotics.

Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs (especially penicillin). Also tell your doctor if you have liver or kidney disease, diabetes, heart failure, cancer, a stomach or intestinal disorder, or if you are malnourished.

Cefuroxime can make birth control pills less effective, which may result in pregnancy. Tell your doctor if you are taking birth control pills to prevent pregnancy. You may need to use another form of birth control during treatment with cefuroxime.

Take this medication for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor. Your symptoms may get better before the infection is completely treated. Cefuroxime will not treat a viral infection such as the common cold or flu.

Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. If you have diarrhea that is watery or has blood in it, call your doctor. Do not use any medicine to stop the diarrhea unless your doctor has told you to.

This medication can cause you to have unusual results with certain lab tests to check for glucose (sugar) in the urine. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are taking cefuroxime.