

Ciprofloxacin (Cipro®)

This sheet is about exposure to ciprofloxacin in pregnancy and while breastfeeding. This information should not take the place of medical care and advice from your healthcare provider.

What is ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin (Cipro®) is an antibiotic used to treat a variety of bacterial infections. It is part of a group of antibiotics called quinolones or fluoroquinolones.

Sometimes when people find out they are pregnant, they think about changing how they take their medication, or stopping their medication altogether. However, it is important to talk with your healthcare providers before making any changes to how you take this medication. Your healthcare providers can talk with you about the benefits of treating your condition and the risks of untreated illness during pregnancy.

I take ciprofloxacin. Can it make it harder for me to get pregnant?

It is not known if taking ciprofloxacin can make it harder to get pregnant.

Does taking ciprofloxacin increase the chance for miscarriage?

Miscarriage can occur in any pregnancy. Studies have not been done to see if ciprofloxacin increases the chance for miscarriage.

Does taking ciprofloxacin increase the chance of birth defects?

Every pregnancy starts out with a 3-5% chance of having a baby with a birth defect. This is called the background risk.

Most studies have not found an increased chance for birth defects when ciprofloxacin is taken during the first trimester of pregnancy. Because most of these studies included people taking ciprofloxacin for only 5 to 7 days, the effects of long-term use in a pregnancy are not well known. However, there was no increased chance for birth defects reported in a small number of cases where ciprofloxacin was used for longer periods of time.

Does taking ciprofloxacin increase the chance of other pregnancy related problems?

Studies have not been done to see if ciprofloxacin increases the chance for pregnancy-related problems such as preterm delivery (birth before week 37) or low birth weight (weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces [2500 grams] at birth).

Does taking ciprofloxacin in pregnancy affect future behavior or learning for the child?

Studies have not been done to see if taking ciprofloxacin can cause behavior or learning issues for the child.

Breastfeeding while taking ciprofloxacin:

There are a small number of studies on using ciprofloxacin while breastfeeding, which suggest that a nursing infant would get only a small amount of the medication from the breast milk. This amount would be much lower than the dose given directly to an infant when needed for a treatment. When ciprofloxacin is taken while breastfeeding, the baby should be watched for symptoms such as diarrhea and yeast infection (thrush or diaper rash). If you suspect the baby has any symptoms including diarrhea and/or yeast infection, contact the child's healthcare provider.

Ciprofloxacin can also be prescribed as an eye or ear drop. In these cases, the amount of medication that gets to the milk is expected to be very low.

Be sure to talk to your healthcare provider about your breastfeeding questions.

If a male takes ciprofloxacin, could it affect fertility (ability to get partner pregnant) or increase the chance of birth defects?

Studies have not been done to see if taking ciprofloxacin could affect male fertility or increase the chance of birth defects. In general, exposures that fathers or sperm donors have are unlikely to increase risks to a pregnancy. For

more information, please see the MotherToBaby fact sheet Paternal Exposures at <https://mothertobaby.org/fact-sheets/paternal-exposures-pregnancy/pdf/>.

Please click here for references.

Questions? Call 866.626.6847 | Text 855.999.3525 | Email or Chat at [MotherToBaby.org](https://mothertobaby.org).

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