

GenRx Cephalexin

Cephalexin (ke-fa-LEX-in)

Consumer Medicine Information

For a copy of a large print leaflet Ph: 1800 195 055

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about GenRx Cephalexin. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor and pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking cephalexin against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Cephalexin is used for

Cephalexin is an antibiotic used to treat infections in different parts of the body caused by bacteria.

Cephalexin will not work against infections caused by viruses such as colds or the flu.

Cephalexin belongs to a group of antibiotics called cephalosporins which are closely related to penicillins.

Cephalexin works by killing the bacteria causing your infection or by stopping its growth.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why cephalexin has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed cephalexin for another reason

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

This medicine is not addictive.

Before you start to take Cephalexin

When you must not take it

Do not take cephalexin if you have an allergy to cephalexin, other cephalosporins or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips or tongue.

Do not take cephalexin if you have had a serious allergic reaction to penicillins.

Do not take cephalexin if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not take cephalexin after the expiry date on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking cephalexin, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

You must tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have any type of allergic reaction to cephalosporin medicines, penicillin medicines or any other antibiotic medicines.

You may have an increased chance of being allergic to cephalexin if you are allergic to any of these medicines.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have any allergies to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have ever had any other health problems/medical conditions, including:

- * kidney disease
- * severe bowel conditions/disease
- * liver disease.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.

Your doctor will discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you take cephalexin.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. Some medicines may interfere with cephalexin. These include:

- * probenecid, a medicine used to treat gout or to prolong the action of certain antibiotics
- * metformin, a medicine used to treat diabetes.

These medicines may be affected by cephalexin or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to avoid while taking cephalexin.

How Cephalexin is taken

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the pack, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor will decide what dose and how long you will receive cephalexin. This depends on your infection and other factors, such as your weight.

Adults

The usual adult dose is one 250mg capsule taken four times each day. Your doctor may recommend a different dose depending on your condition.

Children

Your child's doctor will tell you how much cephalexin your child should take. This will depend on your

child's age, weight and the type of infection.

How to take it

Capsule

Swallow cephalexin capsules with a glass of water.

Suspension

Always shake the bottle before measuring the correct volume to give your child.

When to take it

Take each dose of cephalexin at about the same times each day.

Taking each dose of your cephalexin at the same times each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take the medicine.

It does not matter if you take cephalexin before or after food.

How long to take it

Keep taking this medicine for the full time of treatment, even if you begin to feel better after a few days.

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, the infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your cephalexin as you would normally.

If you are not sure whether to skip the dose, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you have trouble remembering to take your capsules ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much cephalexin. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include nausea and diarrhoea.

While you are taking Cephalexin

Things you must do

If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

If you get severe diarrhoea tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after cephalexin has been stopped.

Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any medicine for diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor or pharmacist.

If you get a sore white mouth or tongue while taking or soon after stopping cephalexin, tell your doctor. Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge.

This may mean you have fungal infection called thrush. Sometimes the use of cephalexin allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms occur. Cephalexin does not work against fungi.

If you become pregnant while you are taking cephalexin, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to start taking any new medicine, tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking cephalexin.

If you are about to have any blood or urine tests tell your doctor you are taking cephalexin.

Cephalexin may affect the results of some of these tests.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking cephalexin.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking your cephalexin because you are feeling better, unless advised by your doctor.

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, all of the bacteria causing your infection may not be killed. These bacteria may continue to grow and multiply so that your infection may not clear completely or it may return.

Do not give cephalexin to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use cephalexin to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how cephalexin affects you.

Cephalexin generally does not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, as with many other medicines, cephalexin may cause dizziness or tiredness in some people.

Side Effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking cephalexin.

This medicine helps most people with infections, but it may have

unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

While taking it

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- * oral thrush - white, furry, sore tongue and mouth
- * vaginal thrush - sore and itchy vagina and/or discharge
- * diarrhoea
- * mild stomach upsets, such as feeling sick
- * vomiting
- * dizziness/tiredness.

These are the most common side effects of cephalexin.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- * fever
- * skin rashes which may be itchy
- * vomiting
- * severe diarrhoea.

These are all serious side effects of cephalexin. You may need urgent medical attention.

If any of the following happen, stop using cephalexin and tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- * life threatening allergic reaction which may include skin rash, itching, difficulty in breathing, swelling of face, lips or tongue
- * skin rash with joint pain and fever.

These are all very serious side effects of cephalexin. If you have them, you may have had a serious allergic reaction to cephalexin. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people. Tell your doctor if you notice any other effects.

After finishing it

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects, particularly if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with cephalexin:

- * severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps
- * watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody
- * fever, in combination with one or both of the above.

These are rare but serious side effects and may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. Cephalexin can cause bacteria, which is normally present in the bowel and normally harmless, to multiply and cause the above symptoms. You may need urgent medical attention.

Do not take any medicine for diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

After taking Cephalexin

Storage

Capsule

Keep your capsules in the original pack until it is time to take them.

If you take your capsules out of the blister pack, they will not keep as well.

Keep your capsules in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25 degrees C.

Suspension

Keep your suspension refrigerated (do not freeze). If you store the suspension out of the refrigerator, it will not keep well.

Do not use any suspension that is left in the bottle after 14 days.

Do not store cephalexin or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on a window sill.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking cephalexin, or the capsule has passed their expiry date, or more than 14 days have passed since the suspension was mixed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

Where to go for further information

Pharmaceutical companies are not in a position to give people an individual diagnosis or medical advice. Your doctor or pharmacist is the best person to give you advice on the treatment of your condition.

Product description

What it looks like

GenRx Cephalexin comes as capsules and suspensions.

GenRx Cephalexin 500mg capsules are opaque white in colour. Each pack contains 20 capsules.

GenRx Cephalexin 125mg/5mL and 250mg/5mL suspensions are

orange-yellow in colour with a fruity flavour. Each bottle contains 100mL.

Ingredients

Capsule

GenRx Cephalexin capsules contain cephalexin (as monohydrate) equivalent to 500mg of cephalexin anhydrous as the active ingredient.

The 500 mg capsule also contains

- * magnesium stearate
- * cellulose microcrystalline
- * gelatin
- * titanium dioxide.

Suspension

GenRx Cephalexin suspension contains cephalexin (as monohydrate) equivalent to 125mg/5mL or 250mg/5mL of cephalexin anhydrous as the active ingredient.

The suspension also contains:

- * saccharin sodium
- * simethicone
- * citric acid anhydrous
- * guar galactomannan
- * sodium benzoate
- * sucrose
- * iron oxide yellow (CI77492)
- * strawberry, apple, raspberry and tutti frutti flavourings

GenRx Cephalexin does not contain gluten or tartrazine.

Australian Registration Numbers

Capsules

GenRx Cephalexin 500 mg capsules - AUST R 96881.

Suspension

GenRx Cephalexin 125mg/5mL suspension - AUST R 98408.

GenRx Cephalexin 250mg/5mL suspension - AUST R 98633.

Sponsor

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