



[Home](#)

2. Ciprodex

Ciprodex Ear Drops

Generic name: [ciprofloxacin and dexamethasone otic](#) [*SIP-roe-FLOX-a-sin-and-DEX-a-METH-a-sone-OH-tik*]

Brand name: Ciprodex

Drug class: [Otic steroids with anti-infectives](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Oct 1, 2023.

[Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [What to avoid](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

What are Ciprodex ear drops?

Ciprodex ear drops contain a combination of [ciprofloxacin](#) and [dexamethasone](#). Ciprofloxacin is a quinolone antibiotic that treats infections caused by bacteria. Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid. It reduces the actions of chemicals in the body that cause inflammation.

Ciprodex ear drops is a prescription medicine used to treat middle ear infections inside the ear (also called [otitis media](#)), and infections of the outer ear canal (also called [otitis externa](#)).

It is not known if Ciprodex ear drops are safe and effective in children under 6 months of age.

Warnings

You should not use Ciprodex ear drops if you have a viral infection affecting your ear canal, including herpes or chickenpox.

Do not use this medication in the eyes or take it by mouth. Ciprodex is intended for use in the ears only. Do not touch the dropper opening to any surface, including the ears or hands. The dropper opening is sterile. If it becomes contaminated, it could cause another infection in the ear.

Notify your doctor if the condition does not improve or appears to worsen.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Ciprodex if you are allergic to ciprofloxacin or dexamethasone, or if you have:

- a viral or fungal infection affecting your ear canal, including herpes; or
- if you are allergic to any antibiotic similar to ciprofloxacin, such as [gatifloxacin](#), [levofloxacin](#), [moxifloxacin](#), [Cipro](#), [Levaquin](#), and others.

To make sure Ciprodex is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- severe ear pain; or
- hearing problems.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Ciprodex should not be used on a child younger than 6 months old.

i [Ciprodex pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I use Ciprodex ear drops?

Take Ciprodex exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

Do not take by mouth. Ciprodex is for use only in the ears.

Shake the medicine well just before each use.

You may warm Ciprodex ear drops before use by holding the bottle in your hand for 1 or 2 minutes. Using cold ear drops can cause [dizziness](#), especially in a child who has ear tubes in place.

Wash your hands before using ear drops.

To use the Ciprodex ear drops:

- Lie down or tilt your head with your ear facing upward. Open the ear canal by gently pulling your ear back, or pulling downward on the earlobe when giving this medicine to a child.
- Hold the dropper upside down over your ear and drop the correct number of drops into the ear.
- Stay lying down or with your head tilted for at least 2 minutes. You may use a small piece of cotton to plug the ear and keep the medicine from draining out.
- Do not touch the dropper tip or place it directly in your ear. It may become contaminated. Wipe the tip with a clean tissue but do not wash with water or soap.

Use Ciprodex for the full prescribed length of time. Your symptoms may improve before the infection is completely cleared. Skipping doses may also increase your risk of further infection that is resistant to [antibiotics](#).

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 7 days of treatment, or if you have new symptoms.

Store Ciprodex ear drops at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Do not freeze. Throw away any unused medicine after your treatment is finished.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose of Ciprodex for Otitis Externa:

Recommended dose: 4 drops in the affected ear(s) 2 times a day

Duration of therapy: 7 days

Comments:

- Patients should lie with the affected ear upward before administration. Once instilled, the tragus should be pumped inward 4 times, and the patient should remain in this position for at least 1 minute.
- If both ears are affected, this procedure should be repeated for the opposite ear.

Use:

- Treatment of acute otitis externa in patients due to *Staphylococcus aureus* and/or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Usual Pediatric Dose of Ciprodex for Otitis Media:

6 months and older:

- Recommended dose: 4 drops in the affected ear(s) 2 times a day
- Duration of therapy: 7 days

Comments:

- Patients should lie with the affected ear upward before administration. Once instilled, the tragus should be pumped inward 4 times, and the patient should remain in this position for at least 1 minute.
- If both ears are affected, this procedure should be repeated for the opposite ear.

Uses:

- Treatment of acute otitis media in patients with tympanostomy tubes due to *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, and/or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- Treatment of acute otitis externa in patients due to *S aureus* and/or *P aeruginosa*

Usual Pediatric Dose of Ciprodex for Otitis Externa:

6 months and older:

- Recommended dose: 4 drops in the affected ear(s) 2 times a day
- Duration of therapy: 7 days

Comments:

- Patients should lie with the affected ear upward before administration. Once instilled, the tragus should be pumped inward 4 times, and the patient should remain in this position for at least 1 minute.
- If both ears are affected, this procedure should be repeated for the opposite ear.

Uses:

- Treatment of acute otitis media in patients with tympanostomy tubes due to *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, and/or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- Treatment of acute otitis externa in patients due to *S aureus* and/or *P aeruginosa*

 [Detailed Ciprodex dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

An overdose of Ciprodex ear drops is not expected to be dangerous. Seek emergency medical attention or call the

Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

What should I avoid while using Ciprodex ear drops?

Avoid getting Ciprodex ear drops in your eyes.

Avoid getting water in your ears while bathing or showering. Avoid swimming while you are treating an ear infection.

Do not use other ear medications unless your doctor tells you to.

Ciprodex side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Ciprodex**: rash, [hives](#), itching; dizziness, fast heartbeats, fluttering in your chest; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have drainage from your ears after you stop using this medicine, especially if it occurs 2 or more times within 6 months after you stop.

Common Ciprodex side effects may include:

- ear itching or pain, ear discomfort or fullness;
- unusual taste in your mouth;
- feeling irritable;
- rash; or
- a buildup of debris in the ear canal.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Ciprodex side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Augmentin

Augmentin is a prescription antibiotic combining amoxicillin and clavulanate to treat bacterial ...

Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[447 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide)

for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Amoxicillin/clavulanate

Amoxicillin and clavulanate potassium is a combination antibiotic used to treat bacterial ...

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[910 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Cephalexin

Cephalexin is a cephalosporin antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections like respiratory, skin ...

Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[509 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Bactrim

Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim) is an antibiotic used to treat ear infections, urinary ...

Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[616 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Keflex

Keflex (cephalexin) is used to treat infections caused by bacteria, including respiratory ...

Reviews & ratings

7.3 / 10

[91 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Zithromax

Zithromax (azithromycin) treats infections caused by bacteria, such as respiratory infections, skin ...

Reviews & ratings

7.1 / 10

[127 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect Ciprodex?

Medicine used in the ears is not likely to be affected by other drugs you use. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your healthcare providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

Does Ciprodex interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Ciprodex

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about Ciprodex (ciprofloxacin / dexamethasone otic)

- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(100\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: otic steroids with anti-infectives](#)

Professional resources

- [Ciprodex prescribing information](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Middle Ear Infections](#)
- [Otitis Externa](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Ciprodex only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

Medical Disclaimer

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 3.02.

Antibiotics 101

[List of Common Antibiotics & Types](#)

[Antibiotics and Alcohol](#)

[Probiotics and Antibiotics](#)

[Antibiotics for Strep Throat](#)

[Antibiotics for a Tooth Infection](#)

[Antibiotics for UTI's](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA
WADA Class	
	Anti-Doping Classification

User Reviews & Ratings

5.5 / 10

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)
[Advertising policy](#)
[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)
[Editorial policy](#)
[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)
[Sitemap](#)
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT

Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

