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2. Ceftriaxone

## Ceftriaxone (injection)

**Generic name:** ceftriaxone (injection) [ *SEF-trye-AX-one* ]

**Brand names:** [Rocephin](#), Rocephin ADD-Vantage

**Dosage forms:** injectable powder for injection (1 g; 10 g; 2 g; 250 mg; 500 mg), intravenous solution (1 g/50 mL-iso-osmotic dextrose; 2 g/50 mL-iso-osmotic dextrose)

**Drug class:** [Third generation cephalosporins](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 8, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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### What is ceftriaxone?

Ceftriaxone is a cephalosporin (SEF a low spor in) [antibiotic](#) that is used to treat many kinds of bacterial infections, including severe or life-threatening forms such as E. coli, [pneumonia](#), or [meningitis](#). Ceftriaxone is also used to prevent [infection](#) in people having certain types of surgery.

Ceftriaxone may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

### Ceftriaxone side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) or **a severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning in your eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash that spreads and causes blistering and peeling).

**Ceftriaxone may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:**

- severe stomach pain, diarrhea that is watery or bloody (even if it occurs months after your last dose);
- new signs of infection (fever, chills, sweating);
- nausea, vomiting, pain in your upper stomach that spreads to your back;
- pale or yellowed skin, dark colored urine;
- new or worsening breathing problems ([wheezing](#), feeling short of breath);
- **a blood cell disorder**--[headache](#), chest pain, dizziness, weakness, severe tingling or numbness; or
- **kidney or bladder problems**--pain in your side or lower back spreading to your groin, blood in your urine, painful or difficult urination, little or no urine.

**Common side effects of ceftriaxone may include:**

- symptoms of a blood cell disorder;
- diarrhea;
- vaginal itching or discharge;
- warmth, tight feeling, or a hard lump where the injection was given;
- rash; or
- abnormal liver function tests.

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.

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

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## Warnings

You should not use ceftriaxone if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction to any type of cephalosporin antibiotic (Omnicef, Keflex, and others).

**Do not use ceftriaxone in a child without a doctor's advice**, and never give more than the child's prescribed dose.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not take ceftriaxone if you are allergic to [cefazolin](#) or any other cephalosporin antibiotic ([cefдинир](#), cefalexin, Keflex, Omnicef, and others).

**Do not use ceftriaxone in a child without a doctor's advice**, and never give more than the child's prescribed dose. Ceftriaxone injection could be dangerous when given to a newborn baby with any intravenous medicines that contain calcium, including total parental nutrition (TPN).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver or kidney disease;
- [gallbladder disease](#);
- diabetes; or
- bleeding problems.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

## How is ceftriaxone given?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Ceftriaxone is injected into a muscle or as an infusion into a vein (IV). A healthcare provider will give you this injection when ceftriaxone is used **to prevent** infection from surgery. You may be shown how to use the injection at home **to treat** an infection.

**Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine.** You may need to mix ceftriaxone with a liquid (diluent) before using it. When using injections by yourself, be sure you understand how to properly mix and

store the medicine.

Prepare an injection only when you are ready to give it. **Do not use if the medicine has changed colors or has particles in it.** Call your pharmacist for new medicine.

Do not mix ceftriaxone in the same injection with other [antibiotics](#), or with any diluent that contains calcium, including a TPN ([total parenteral nutrition](#)) solution.

**If you use other injectable medications, be sure to flush your intravenous catheter between injections of each medication.**

Drink plenty of liquids to keep your kidneys working properly while using ceftriaxone.

Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time, even if your symptoms quickly improve. Skipping doses can increase your risk of infection that is resistant to medication. Ceftriaxone will not treat a [viral infection](#) such as the flu or a [common cold](#).

Ceftriaxone can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using ceftriaxone.

**After mixing ceftriaxone with a diluent, you must use the medicine within a certain number of hours or days.** This will depend on the diluent and how you store the mixture (at room temperature, in a refrigerator, or frozen). Carefully follow all mixing and storage instructions provided with your medicine. Ask your pharmacist if you have questions.

If your medicine was provided in a frozen form, thaw it in a refrigerator or at room temperature. Do not warm in a microwave or boiling water. Use the medicine as soon as possible after thawing it. Do not refreeze.

Use a needle and syringe only once and then place them in a puncture-proof "sharps" container. Follow state or local laws about how to dispose of this container. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

 [Detailed Ceftriaxone dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss a dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What should I avoid while using ceftriaxone?

Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. **If you have diarrhea that is watery or bloody, call your doctor.** Do not use anti-diarrhea medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

## What other drugs will affect ceftriaxone?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- [fluconazole](#);

- [vancomycin](#); or
- other injected (IV) antibiotics.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect ceftriaxone, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

**i** [Ceftriaxone drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does ceftriaxone interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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## Frequently asked questions

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Rocephin](#)

## Professional resources

- [CefTRIAXone monograph](#)

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Other brands

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Further information

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

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

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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



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