



[Home](#)

2. [Levaquin](#)

# Levaquin

**Generic name:** [levofloxacin](#) (oral) [ *LEE-voe-FLOX-a-sin* ]

**Drug class:** [Quinolones and fluoroquinolones](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Jul 15, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)



The Levaquin brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

## What is Levaquin?

Levaquin is a fluoroquinolone (flor-o-KWIN-o-lone) antibiotic that fights bacteria in the body.

Levaquin is used to treat different types of bacterial infections. Levofloxacin is also used to treat people who have been exposed to anthrax or certain types of [plague](#).

Fluoroquinolone [antibiotics](#) can cause serious or disabling side effects.

Levaquin should be used only for infections that cannot be treated with a safer antibiotic.

## Warnings

Levaquin can cause serious side effects, including tendon problems, nerve damage, serious mood or behavior changes, or [low blood sugar](#).

**Stop using this medicine and call your doctor at once if you have symptoms such as:** headache, hunger, irritability, numbness, tingling, burning pain, confusion, agitation, paranoia, problems with memory or concentration, thoughts of suicide, or sudden pain or movement problems in any of your joints.

**In rare cases, levofloxacin may cause damage to your aorta, which could lead to dangerous bleeding or death.** Get emergency medical help if you have severe and constant pain in your chest, stomach, or back.

**Levaquin may cause swelling or tearing of a tendon.** Stop taking levofloxacin and call your doctor at once if you have sudden pain, swelling, bruising, tenderness, stiffness, or movement problems in any of your joints.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use Levaquin if you are allergic to levofloxacin or other fluoroquinolones ([ciprofloxacin](#), [gemifloxacin](#), [moxifloxacin](#), norfloxacin, [ofloxacin](#), and others).

**Levaquin may cause swelling or tearing of a tendon (the fiber that connects bones to muscles in the body),** especially in the Achilles' tendon of the heel. This can happen during treatment or up to several months after you stop taking levofloxacin. Tendon problems may be more likely in certain people (children and older adults, or people who use steroid medicine or have had an [organ transplant](#)).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- tendon problems, bone problems, arthritis or other joint problems (especially in children);
- blood circulation problems, aneurysm, narrowing or hardening of the arteries;
- heart problems, high blood pressure;
- a genetic disease such as Marfan syndrome or Ehler's-Danlos syndrome;
- diabetes;
- a muscle or nerve disorder, such as [myasthenia gravis](#);
- kidney disease;
- [seizures](#) or [epilepsy](#);
- a [head injury](#) or [brain tumor](#);
- [long QT syndrome](#) (in you or a family member); or
- low levels of potassium in your blood ([hypokalemia](#)).

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice.

It is not known whether this medicine will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant.

You should not breast-feed while using this medicine.

 [Levaquin pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take Levaquin?

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

Take this medicine with water, at the same time each day. Drink extra fluids to keep your kidneys working properly while taking this medicine.

You may take Levaquin tablets with or without food.

Take levofloxacin **oral solution (liquid)** on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.

Measure liquid medicine carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

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. Levaquin will not treat a [viral infection](#) such as the flu or a

common cold.

**Do not share Levaquin with another person.**

This medicine may affect a drug-screening urine test and you may have false results. Tell the laboratory staff that you use levofloxacin.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

 [Detailed Levaquin dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

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

## What happens if I overdose?

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

## What to avoid

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

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 before using anti-diarrhea medicine.

Levofloxacin could make you sunburn more easily. Avoid sunlight or tanning beds. Wear protective clothing and use [sunscreen](#) (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors. **Tell your doctor if you have severe burning, redness, itching, rash, or swelling after being in the sun.**

## Levaquin 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).

Levaquin can cause serious side effects, including tendon problems, side effects on your nerves (which may cause permanent nerve damage), serious mood or behavior changes (after just one dose), or low blood sugar (which can lead to coma).

**Stop taking this medicine and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- **low blood sugar** - headache, hunger, sweating, irritability, [dizziness](#), [nausea](#), [fast heart rate](#), or feeling anxious or shaky;
- **nerve symptoms in your hands, arms, legs, or feet** - numbness, weakness, tingling, burning pain;
- **serious mood or behavior changes** - nervousness, confusion, agitation, paranoia, hallucinations, memory problems, trouble concentrating, thoughts of suicide; or

- **signs of tendon rupture** - sudden pain, swelling, bruising, tenderness, stiffness, movement problems, or a snapping or popping sound in any of your joints (rest the joint until you receive medical care or instructions).

**In rare cases, levofloxacin may cause damage to your aorta, the main blood artery of the body. This could lead to dangerous bleeding or death.** Get emergency medical help if you have severe and constant pain in your chest, stomach, or back.

**Stop taking Levaquin and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- severe stomach pain, diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- fast or pounding heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, shortness of breath, and sudden dizziness (like you might pass out);
- the first sign of any skin rash, no matter how mild;
- muscle weakness, breathing problems;
- seizure (convulsions);
- **increased pressure inside the skull** - severe headaches, ringing in your ears, dizziness, nausea, vision problems, pain behind your eyes; or
- **liver problems** - upper stomach pain, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Common side effects may include:

- nausea, [constipation](#), diarrhea;
- headache, dizziness; or
- trouble sleeping.

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.

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

## Related/similar drugs

### Clindamycin

Clindamycin (Cleocin) is used to treat serious infections caused by bacteria. Includes clindamycin ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[806 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

[Omvox](#)

Omvoh is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

#### Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Ciprofloxacin

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic belong to a group of drugs called fluoroquinolones. Learn about side ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.0 / 10

[935 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Metronidazole

Metronidazole is an antibiotic used to fight bacteria in your body. Learn about side effects ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.0 / 10

[2,431 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](#)

### Azithromycin

Azithromycin is an antibiotic used to treat many different types of infections caused by bacteria ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.8 / 10

[1,306 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Doxycycline

Doxycycline is a tetracycline antibiotic used to treat many different bacterial infections such as ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[1,635 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Augmentin

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

### Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[447 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](#)

## What other drugs will affect Levaquin?

Some medicines can make levofloxacin much less effective when taken at the same time. **If you take any of the following medicines, take your Levaquin dose 2 hours before or 2 hours after you take the other medicine.**

- [antacids](#) that contain magnesium or aluminum (such as Maalox, Mylanta, or [Roloids](#)), or the ulcer medicine [sucralfate](#) ([Carafate](#));

- [didanosine](#) ([Videx](#)) powder or chewable tablets; or
- vitamin or mineral supplements that contain aluminum, iron, magnesium, or [zinc](#).

To make sure Levaquin is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [theophylline](#);
- a diuretic or "water pill";
- heart rhythm medication;
- [insulin](#) or oral diabetes medicine;
- medicine to treat [depression](#) or mental illness;
- steroid medicine (such as [prednisone](#));
- **a blood thinner** - [warfarin](#), [Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#); or
- **NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)** - [aspirin](#), [ibuprofen](#) ([Advil](#), [Motrin](#)), [naproxen](#) ([Aleve](#)), [celecoxib](#), [diclofenac](#), [indomethacin](#), [meloxicam](#), and others.

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

 [Levaquin drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does Levaquin interact with my other drugs?

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

Levaquin

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## Frequently asked questions

- [What are the best antibiotics for pneumonia?](#)
- [Can you take Levaquin for an infected tooth?](#)
- [Can Levaquin cause tendonitis?](#)
- [What is the best antibiotic to treat a sinus infection?](#)
- [What antibiotics are used to treat UTI?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

## More about Levaquin (levofloxacin)

- [Check interactions](#)

- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(410\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: quinolones and fluoroquinolones](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

## Patient resources

- [Levaquin \(Levofloxacin Injection\) patient information](#)
- [Levaquin \(Levofloxacin Oral Solution\)](#)
- [Levaquin \(Levofloxacin Tablets\)](#)

## Professional resources

- [Levaquin prescribing information](#)
- [Levaquin Oral Solution \(FDA\)](#)
- [Levofloxacin \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Bacterial Infection](#)
- [Bladder Infection](#)
- [Anthrax](#)
- [Anthrax Prophylaxis](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Levaquin 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](#)



## 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

 Discontinued

#### Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

#### CSA Schedule\*

N/A Not a controlled drug

#### Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



### User Reviews & Ratings

5.3 / 10

[410 Reviews](#)

### Images

[Levaquin 750 mg \(LEVAQUIN 750\)](#)



[View larger images](#)

## 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](#)

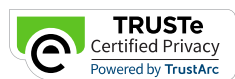
[Sitemap](#)

[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.