



PACKAGE LEAFLET:  
INFORMATION FOR  
THE USER

**Cefalexin  
Capsules 250mg  
Cefalexin  
Capsules 500mg**  
cefaalexin

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

**What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Cefalexin Capsules are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Cefalexin Capsules
3. How to take Cefalexin Capsules
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Cefalexin Capsules
6. Contents of the pack and other information

### 1. WHAT CEFALEXIN CAPSULES ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE USED FOR

Cefalexin Capsules contain cefalexin as the active ingredient, which belongs to a class of antibiotics called 'cephalosporins'. Cefalexin Capsules are used to treat following infections caused by bacteria that can be killed by cefalexin:

- Respiratory tract (lung and airways) e.g. tonsillitis, pharyngitis and bronchitis
- Middle ear infections (otitis media)
- Skin and soft tissue (e.g. muscle) infections
- Bone and joint infections
- Infections of the reproductive organs and urinary tract (e.g. cystitis), including acute inflammation of the prostate gland (prostatitis)
- Dental infections.

### 2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE CEFALEXIN CAPSULES

**Do not take Cefalexin Capsules:**

- If you are allergic to cefalexin, other cephalosporins (similar antibiotics) or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in Section 6). An allergic reaction may include rash, itching, difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, lips, throat or tongue.

**Tell your doctor before taking Cefalexin:**

- If you have ever developed a severe skin rash or skin peeling, blistering and/or mouth sores after taking cefalexin or other antibacterials.

**Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Cefalexin Capsules if you:

- Have had allergic reaction to cefalexin, cephalosporins, penicillins or other drugs in the past
- Develop severe or prolonged diarrhoea during or after taking cefalexin
- Have a severe kidney disorder (you may need reduced dose)
- have ever developed a severe skin rash or skin peeling, blistering and/or mouth sores after taking cefalexin or other antibacterials

Tell your doctor if you are having blood and urine Cefalexin may interfere with these tests.

**Take special care with Cefalexin:**

Acute generalised exanthematous (AGEP) has been reported with the use of cefalexin. AGEP appears at the initiation of treatment as a red, scaly widespread rash with bumps under the skin and blisters accompanied by fever. The most common location: mainly localised on the skin folds, trunk, and upper extremities. The highest risk of occurrence of this serious skin reaction is within the first week of treatment. If you develop a serious skin rash or another of these skin symptoms, stop taking cefalexin and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately.

**Other medicines and Cefalexin Capsules**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

This is especially important of the following, as they may interact with your Cefalexin:

- Any other antibiotics (e.g. gentamicin, tobramycin, cefuroxime)
- Potent diuretics e.g. furosemide (water tablets used to treat high blood pressure or water retention)
- Probenecid (a treatment for gout)
- Metformin (a treatment for diabetes)
- Drugs used to treat leukaemia.

It may still be all right for you to be given Cefalexin Capsules and your doctor will be able to decide what is suitable for you.

**Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

**Driving and using machines**

Cefalexin Capsules should not affect your ability to drive or use machines.

**Cefalexin Capsule contains Lactose**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product

### 3. HOW TO TAKE CEFALEXIN CAPSULES

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

These capsules may be taken before, during or after your meals.

**Dosage**

**Adults and the elderly**

**The recommended total daily dose is 1-4 g orally, in divided doses.**

- Most infections can be treated by 500 mg every 8 hours. For skin and soft tissue infections, sore throat (streptococcal pharyngitis), and mild, uncomplicated urinary tract infections, the usual dose is 250 mg every 6 hours, or 500 mg every 12 hours.
- For more severe infections, larger doses may be needed. A reduced dose is needed for patients with severe kidney disorders.

**Use in children**

**The usual total daily dose for children is 25-50 mg/kg (body weight) in divided doses.**

- For skin and soft tissue infections, streptococcal pharyngitis, and mild, uncomplicated urinary tract infections, the total daily dose may be divided and administered every 12 hours.

For most infections the following schedule is suggested:

**Children under 5 years:** 125 mg every 8 hours.

**Children 5 years and over:** 250 mg every 8 hours.

In severe infections, the dose may be doubled. In the treatment of middle ear infections, a total daily dose of 75 to 100 mg/kg in 4 doses is required.


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 If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**If you take more Cefalexin Capsules than you should**

Contact your doctor or nearest hospital casualty department immediately for advice if you or a child have swallowed too many capsules. Take this leaflet, the pack or any capsules with you, if you can. Symptoms of overdose include nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, appearance of blood in the urine.

**If you forget to take Cefalexin Capsules**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time to take the next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as before. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Like all medicines, Cefalexin Capsules can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

**Tell your doctor immediately** if you get any sudden wheeziness, difficulty in breathing, swelling of the eyelids, face or lips, rash or itching (especially affecting your whole body).

**Serious side effects**

The following side effects are serious. You should stop taking this medicine and contact your doctor immediately if you experience them:

- **Serious peeling or blistering of the skin**
- **Severe diarrhoea**
- **A red, scaly widespread rash with bumps under the skin and blisters accompanied by fever at the initiation of treatment (acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis). See also section 2.**

**The following side effects have been reported**

- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Vomiting
- Indigestion
- Stomach pains
- Measles-like rash, (alone)
- Itching
- Red wheals on the skin (urticaria) (alone)
- Rash with wide spread joint pain and/ or stiffness, swollen lymph glands, fever and, possibly, cloudy urine
- Changes in blood counts, which may show up as bruising or a very tired feeling. You will need a blood test to confirm this
- Damage to your liver or kidneys which can be detected by a blood and/ or urine test
- Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- Weakness
- Fainting
- Abnormally excitable behaviour
- Agitation
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Seeing or hearing things (hallucinations)
- Itching of the vagina or anus caused by thrush (candidiasis)
- Discharge from the vagina caused by thrush
- Inflamed vagina (vaginitis)
- Nervousness
- Sleep disturbances

- Hypertonia (increased tightness of muscle tone)
- Arthritis and joint disorder
- Encephalopathy (non-inflammatory brain disease)
- Convulsions
- Myoclonus (muscle-twitching)

**Frequency not known:**

A red, scaly widespread rash with bumps under the skin and blisters accompanied by fever at the initiation of treatment (acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis). Stop using cefalexin if you develop these symptoms and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately. See also section 2.

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. HOW TO STORE CEFALEXIN CAPSULES**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not store above 25°C.

Store Cefalexin Capsules in their original package and keep containers tightly closed.

Do not use the capsules after the expiry 'EXP' date which is printed on the carton (the expiry date refers to the last day of the month stated).

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

**6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**What Cefalexin Capsules contain**

The active ingredient is cefalexin, 250mg or 500mg.

The other ingredients are lactose, magnesium stearate. The capsule shell contains black iron oxide (E172), titanium dioxide (E171), erythrosin (E127), quinoline yellow (E104) and gelatin.

**What Cefalexin Capsules look like and contents of the pack**

Cefalexin Capsules are grey/orange capsule containing white powder and printed with 'CHX 250' (250mg) or 'CHX 500' (500mg). They are available in blisters pack of 7, 14, 20, 21, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60, 100, or 500 capsules (not all pack sizes may be marketed).

**Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Marketing Authorisation Holder:  
Milpharm Limited  
Ares, Odyssey Business Park,  
West End Road,  
South Ruislip HA4 6QD,  
United Kingdom.

**Manufacturers:**

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P15XXXXXX