How does this medication work?

Ofloxacin is used with other antibiotics in the treatment of *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAI or MAC) infection. It is also used to treat a number of other bacterial infections.

How do I take this medication?

Your dosage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ofloxacin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____ tablet(s), ____ mg</td>
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<td>____ times a day</td>
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Ofloxacin may be taken with or without food. However, avoid taking ofloxacin with milk or milk products, because they may reduce absorption. It would be preferable to leave a 2- to 4-hour interval between taking ofloxacin and the ingestion of milk products.

It is important to take ofloxacin regularly, at the same time each day, for the duration of your treatment, even if you feel better after a while.

*Never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.*

What if I forget to take a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible, and then continue with your regular schedule.

If it is nearly time for your next dose, however, just take that one according to the normal schedule. Do not double up doses.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Some people may experience gastrointestinal (digestive) effects such as diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Take ofloxacin with food to help lessen these effects. If they occur and persist, consult your pharmacist, doctor or dietician for ways to manage them.

You may also feel sleepy or dizzy at the beginning of treatment. Find out how ofloxacin affects you before driving a vehicle or undertaking any activity that requires close attention.

An allergic reaction may occur on rare occasions. If you notice the appearance of a skin eruption (rash, redness with or without itching) or other serious skin effect, or have difficulty breathing, *inform your doctor immediately.*

Ofloxacin may (rarely) make your skin more sensitive to the sun or sun lamps. To prevent this, always use a sun screen before going out in the sun or using a sun lamp, and avoid prolonged exposure. Sunscreens recommended for photosensitivity (increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun) are Ombrelle 60 and Anthélios “L”.

Can I take ofloxacin with my other medications?

- Antacids such as Maalox®, Amphogel®, or Diovol® reduce the absorption and consequently the efficacy of ofloxacin. Avoid these combinations, or take ofloxacin 2 hours before or at least 6 hours after these products.
• Mineral supplements (or multivitamins with minerals) containing calcium, iron, zinc, magnesium or aluminum decrease the absorption and consequently the efficacy of ofloxacin. Avoid these combinations, or take ofloxacin 2 hours before or at least 6 hours after these products.

• Diet supplements (e.g., Ensure®, Nutren®, Boost®, etc.), or mineral-enriched beverages (iron, calcium, zinc, aluminum, magnesium) reduce the absorption and consequently the efficacy of ofloxacin. Avoid these combinations, or take ofloxacin 2 hours before or at least 6 hours after these products.

Ofloxacin may interact with other medications.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, whether on prescription or not, any natural products or recreational drugs.

Can I drink alcohol if I’m on ofloxacin?

Avoid the excessive or regular consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits) as these may interact with some of your medications.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have a drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not be harmful to your health.

What if I’m pregnant or breast-feeding?

In most cases, ofloxacin should not be administered to pregnant women. If you are, or want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor about taking it.

As the virus can be transmitted via maternal milk, breast-feeding is not recommended in women who are HIV-positive.

Storage

Keep ofloxacin in a dry place, at room temperature (15 to 30°C or 59 to 86°F), and protected from light. Avoid humidity (bathrooms, etc.).

Place out of the sight and reach of children.

General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team, so that your condition can be closely monitored.

If you have any questions about your medications or need help on how to schedule when to take them, please contact your doctor or pharmacist, who know your medication well.