

Fluoroquinolones Ophthalmic

Ciloxan[®] (ciprofloxacin), Chibroxin[®] (norfloxacin), and Ocuflox[®] (Ofloxacin) are other names for these medications.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Fluoroquinolones are strong antibiotics that are used to treat bacterial infections of the clear part of the eye (cornea). They are mostly used to treat cats with bacterial eye infections.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Fluoroquinolones must not be used in any animals that will be used for human food.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The medication may cause the eye to sting a bit when first put in the eye.
- Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. You should watch it for a short time to make sure it does not bump into things and injure itself.
- Side effects from fluoroquinolones administered in the eye are rare, but prolonged or excessive use of fluoroquinolones can cause the same side effects as when fluoroquinolones are swallowed.
- Use of one fluoroquinolone, enrofloxacin, either by mouth or injection, has caused blindness in cats when used at certain doses. There have not been any reports of blindness from use of fluoroquinolones in the eye, but if your cat's pupil looks bigger than usual, you should see a veterinarian immediately.
- Use of fluoroquinolones orally and by injection have also stopped bone growth in young animals. This side effect is not likely with eye use.

How Should It Be Given?

- Eye drops may be used every 2-6 hours and ointments every 8-12 depending on the condition that your veterinarian is treating.
- If you are giving more than one medication, you should allow 5 minutes between medications to allow the medication to work and to not be washed out

by the next medication. If you are placing medications through the catheter system, you should push some air, not liquid, through the tubing between drugs to push the drops to the eye.

- Medication should be applied in the lower eyelid sac (conjunctival sac) without touching the tip of the dropper or tube to the eye as this will contaminate the medication. Do not touch the dropper or tube tip with your fingers as this will also contaminate the medication.
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- You should always wash your hands after applying this medication to your pet's eyes.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Fluoroquinolones are usually administered as a drop three to six times daily.
- **Horses:** Horses will usually receive fluoroquinolones as a solution administered through an eye catheter (subpalpebral lavage system) every one to four hours.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Fluoroquinolones should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Your pet's eye should start to look better in 48 hours. If the eye looks the same or gets worse, you should contact your veterinarian for advice.