

Medicines for Children: information for parents and carers

Flucloxacillin for bacterial infections



This leaflet is about the use of the antibiotic flucloxacillin for the treatment of bacterial infections.

This leaflet has been written specifically about the use of this medicine in children. The information may differ from that provided by the manufacturer. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

If your child has ever had a reaction to **any** medicine, check with your doctor that your child can have flucloxacillin before giving it.

Name of drug

Flucloxacillin

Common brands: Floxapen[®], Fluclomix[®], Ladropen[®]

Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?

It is important that your child takes this medicine in the way that your doctor has told you to so that it kills all the bacteria and gets rid of the infection.

What is flucloxacillin available as?

- Capsules: 250 mg, 500 mg
- Liquid medicine (syrup or suspension): 125 mg or 250 mg in 5 mL. The syrup contains sugar.

When should I give flucloxacillin?

Flucloxacillin is usually given **four** times a day. This is usually first thing in the morning (before breakfast), at about midday (before lunch), late in the afternoon (before tea) and at bedtime. Ideally, these times should be at least 3 hours apart.

How much should I give?

Your doctor will work out the amount of flucloxacillin (the dose) that is right for *your* child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

 **It is important that you follow your doctor's instructions about how much to give.**

How should I give flucloxacillin?

This medicine works best when the stomach is empty, so try to give it to your child ½–1 hour before they eat. However, if your child has an upset stomach, you can give it with a small amount of food.



Capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water, milk or juice. Your child should not chew the capsules.



Liquid medicine: Shake the medicine well. Measure out the right amount using a medicine spoon or oral syringe. You can get these from your pharmacist. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount. You can also dilute the right amount of medicine (measured with a spoon) in a small amount of water or milk. Make sure your child takes it all straight away.

 It is important that you give your child the whole dose each time.

When should the medicine start working?

Your child should start to get better after taking the medicine for 2 days. It is important that they **take the whole course** of medicine that has been prescribed. Do not stop early.

What if my child is sick (vomits)?

- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of flucloxacillin, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of flucloxacillin, you **do not** need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

What if I forget to give it?

- If you miss a dose, wait until the next normal dose. Do not give the missed dose.
- If you forget to give the dose before your child has eaten, but remember during the meal, give them the dose straight after finishing the meal.

Never give a double dose of flucloxacillin.

What if I give too much?

Flucloxacillin is normally a safe drug. It is unlikely to cause any problems if you give an extra dose by mistake.

If you think your child may have had too much flucloxacillin, contact your doctor or NHS Direct (0845 4647). Have the medicine packet or container with you if you telephone for advice.

Are there any possible side-effects?

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don't want (side-effects).

Side-effects are rare with flucloxacillin and do not usually last for long. They will get better after a day or two as your child's body gets used to the medicine, and should go away when the treatment course is finished.

Side-effects that you must do something about



If your child gets a skin rash or itching, has problems breathing or seems short of breath or is wheezing, or if their face, throat, lips or tongue start to swell, they may be allergic to flucloxacillin. **Take them to hospital or call an ambulance straight away.**

- Contact your doctor if, in the month after finishing flucloxacillin, your child shows yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes (jaundice) or has diarrhoea that goes on for more than 4 days, or if it contains blood. This is because flucloxacillin may very occasionally cause liver or bowel problems.

Important things to know about taking antibiotics

- ⚠ It is vital that your child **completes the course** of antibiotic. This means that they must take the medicine for the number of days that the doctor has told you, or until all the tablets or capsules have been taken. Your child will probably start to feel better soon after starting to take the antibiotic. However, it takes a few days for the antibiotic to kill *all* the bacteria. If you stop giving the antibiotic too soon, the bacteria that are left will start to multiply again, and may cause another infection. There is also a risk that these bacteria will be 'resistant' to the first antibiotic. This means that it might not work next time, and your child might need a stronger antibiotic.
- Children are sometimes sick (vomit) or get diarrhoea when taking antibiotics. Encourage them to drink water to replace the fluid they have lost. You can also buy oral rehydration fluid from your pharmacist.
- **Do not** give your child any medicine to stop the diarrhoea unless your doctor has told you to, as this can make things worse.

Other side-effects you need to know about

- Some children get diarrhoea, stomach pains and may feel sick or be sick (vomit) when they first start taking flucloxacillin. The box above gives advice on what to do.
- Contact your doctor if your child has diarrhoea that goes on for more than 4 days or if it is severe and watery, or contains blood.
- You may see white patches inside your child's mouth and throat, and girls may get itching or soreness around the vagina. This is caused by a fungal infection called thrush. If you think your child may have thrush, contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Can other medicines be given at the same time as flucloxacillin?

- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- Flucloxacillin should not be taken with some common drugs that you get on prescription. If your child is taking any other medicines, tell your doctor and pharmacist.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist **before** giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or complementary medicines.

Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

- ⚠ You must tell your doctor if your child has ever had an allergic reaction or other reaction to **any medicine**. If you have forgotten to tell your doctor, check with the doctor or pharmacist **before** giving flucloxacillin to your child.

- Try to give the medicine at about the same times each day, to help you remember, and to make sure that there is the right amount of medicine in your child's body to kill the bacteria.
- Only give this medicine to your child for their current infection.
- **Never save** medicine for future illnesses. Throw away any unused medicine or return it to the pharmacist.
- Only give the antibiotic to the child for whom it was prescribed. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.
- ⚠ If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact your doctor.
- Antibiotics only kill bacteria; they do not kill viruses. This means that they do not work against colds, sore throats, flu or other infections that are caused by viruses. Your doctor will not prescribe antibiotics for these illnesses.

⚠ Your child should not have flucloxacillin if they are allergic to penicillin antibiotics.

⚠ Your child should not have flucloxacillin if they have ever had liver problems or jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes), other than jaundice in the few weeks after birth (which is normal).

Where should I keep this medicine?

- Keep this medicine in a cupboard, away from heat, direct sunlight and excess moisture (do not keep it in the bathroom).
- ⚠ You may need to keep liquid medicine in the fridge – check the instructions on the bottle. Make sure that the medicine doesn't freeze.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Who to contact for more information

Your child's doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about flucloxacillin and about other medicines used to treat infections.

You can also get useful information from:

NHS Direct (www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk, 0845 46 47)

NHS 24 (Scotland) 08454 24 24 24

NHS Direct (Wales/Galw Iechyd Cymru) 0845 46 47

NHS NI (Northern Ireland) 0845 46 47

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk



Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health



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We have written this leaflet to help you understand more about the medicine you are giving to your child. We take great care to make sure that the information is correct and up-to-date. However, medicines can be used in different ways for different patients. It is therefore important that you follow the advice of your doctor or pharmacist, as they understand your child's illness. If you are not sure about something, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Note that this leaflet applies to the use of medicines in the UK; it may not apply in other countries. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), The Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG), WellChild and the contributors and editors cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of information, omissions of information, or any actions that may be taken as a consequence of reading the leaflet.