

PACKAGE LEAFLET: Information for the patient

NEOCIL

Film-coated tablets – 500 mg
(Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- 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. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Neocil is and what it is used for
2. Before you take Neocil
3. How to take Neocil
4. Possible side effects
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1. WHAT NEOCIL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Neocil contains the active substance ciprofloxacin. Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic belonging to the fluoroquinolone family. Ciprofloxacin works by killing bacteria that cause infections. It only works with specific strains of bacteria.

Adults

Neocil is used in adults to treat the following bacterial infections:

- respiratory tract infections;
- long lasting or recurring ear or sinus infections;
- urinary tract infections;
- genital tract infections in men and women;

- gastro-intestinal tract infections and intra-abdominal infections;
- skin and soft tissue infections;
- bone and joint infections;
- to prevent infections due to the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*;
- anthrax inhalation exposure.

Ciprofloxacin may be used in the management of patients with low white blood cell counts (neutropenia) who have a fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection.

If you have a severe infection or one that is caused by more than one type of bacterium, you may be given additional antibiotic treatment in addition to Neocil.

Children and adolescents

Neocil is used in children and adolescents, under specialist medical supervision, to treat the following bacterial infections:

- lung and bronchial infections in children and adolescents suffering from cystic fibrosis;
- complicated urinary tract infections, including infections that have reached the kidneys (pyelonephritis);
- anthrax inhalation exposure.

Neocil may also be used to treat other specific severe infections in children and adolescents when your doctor considered this necessary.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE NEOCIL

Do not take Neocil:

- if you are allergic to the active substance, to other quinolone drugs or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in Section 6);
- if you are taking tizanidine (see Section 2: Other medicines and Neocil).

Warnings and precautions

You should not take fluoroquinolone / quinolone antibacterial medicines, including Neocil, if you have experienced any serious adverse reaction in the past when taking a quinolone or fluoroquinolone. In this situation, you should inform your doctor as soon as possible.

Talk to your doctor before taking Neocil

- if you have ever had kidney problems because your treatment may need to be adjusted;
- if you suffer from epilepsy or other neurological conditions;
- if you have a history of tendon problems during previous treatment with antibiotics such as Neocil;
- if you are diabetic, because you may experience a risk of hypoglycaemia with ciprofloxacin;
- if you have myasthenia gravis (a type of muscle weakness) because symptoms can be exacerbated;
- if you have heart problems; caution should be taken when using ciprofloxacin;
- if you were born with or have family history of prolonged QT interval (seen on ECG, electrical recording of the heart), have salt imbalance in the blood (especially low level of potassium or magnesium in the blood), have a very slow heart rhythm (called 'bradycardia'), have a weak heart (heart failure), have a history of heart attack (myocardial infarction), you are female or elderly or you are taking other medicines that result in abnormal ECG changes (see section 2: Other medicines and Neocil);
- if you or a member of your family is known to have a deficiency in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD), since you may experience a risk of anaemia with ciprofloxacin;
- if you have been diagnosed with an enlargement or "bulge" of a large blood vessel (aortic aneurysm or large vessel peripheral aneurysm);
- if you have experienced a previous episode of aortic dissection (a tear in the aorta wall);
- if you have been diagnosed with leaking heart valves (heart valve regurgitation);
- if you have a family history of aortic aneurysm or aortic dissection or congenital heart valve disease, or other risk factors or predisposing conditions (e.g. connective tissue disorders such as Marfan syndrome, or Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Turner syndrome, Sjögren's syndrome [an inflammatory autoimmune disease], or vascular disorders such as Takayasu arteritis, giant cell arteritis, Behcet's disease, high blood pressure, or known atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis [a disease of the joints] or endocarditis [an infection of the heart]).

For the treatment of some genital tract infections, your doctor can prescribe another antibiotic in addition to ciprofloxacin. If there is no improvement in symptoms after 3 days of treatment, please consult your doctor.

While taking Neocil

Tell your doctor immediately, if any of the following occurs **while taking Neocil**. Your doctor will decide whether treatment with Neocil needs to be stopped.

- **Severe, sudden allergic reaction** (an anaphylactic reaction/shock, angio-oedema). Even with the first dose, there is a small chance that you may experience a severe allergic reaction with the following symptoms: tightness in the chest, feeling dizzy, sick or faint, or experiencing dizziness when standing up. **If this happens, stop taking Neocil and contact your doctor immediately.**
- **Pain and swelling in the joints and inflammation or rupture of tendons** may occur rarely. Your risk is increased if you are elderly (above 60 years of age), have received an organ transplant, have kidney problems or if you are being treated with corticosteroids. Inflammation and ruptures of tendons may occur within the first 48 hours of treatment and even up to several months after stopping of Neocil therapy. At the first sign of pain or inflammation of a tendon (for example in your ankle, wrist, elbow, shoulder or knee), stop taking Neocil, contact your doctor and rest the painful area. Avoid any unnecessary exercise, as this might increase the risk of a tendon rupture.
- If you suffer from **epilepsy** or other **neurological conditions** such as cerebral ischemia or stroke, you may experience side effects associated with the central nervous system. If seizure happens, stop taking Neocil and contact your doctor immediately.
- You may rarely experience symptoms of nerve damage (**neuropathy**) such as pain, burning, tingling, numbness and/or weakness, especially in the feet and legs or hands and arms. If this happens, stop taking Neocil and contact your doctor immediately in order to prevent the development of potentially irreversible condition.
- You may experience **psychiatric reactions** the first time you take Neocil. If you suffer from **depression** or **psychosis**, your symptoms may become worse under treatment with Neocil. In rare cases, depression or psychosis can progress to thoughts

of suicide, suicide attempts, or completed suicide. If this happens, contact your doctor immediately.

- **Hypoglycemia** has been reported most often in diabetic patients, predominantly in elderly population. If this happens, contact your doctor immediately.
- **Diarrhoea** may develop while you are taking antibiotics, including Neocil, or even several weeks after you have stopped taking them. If it becomes severe or persistent or you notice that your stool contains blood or mucus, stop taking Neocil and contact your doctor immediately, as this can be life-threatening. Do not take medicines that stop or slow down bowel movements.
- If your **eyesight becomes impaired** or if your eyes seem to be otherwise affected, consult an eye specialist immediately.
- Your skin becomes more **sensitive to sunlight or ultraviolet (UV) light** when taking Neocil. Avoid exposure to strong sunlight, or artificial UV light such as sunbeds.
- Tell the doctor or laboratory staff that you are taking Neocil if you have to provide a **blood or urine sample**.
- If you suffer from **kidney problems**, tell the doctor because your dose may need to be adjusted.
- Neocil may cause **liver damage**. If you notice any symptoms such as loss of appetite, jaundice (yellowing of the skin), dark urine, itching, or tenderness of the stomach, contact your doctor immediately.
- Neocil may cause a reduction in the number of white blood cells and your **resistance to infection may be decreased**. If you experience an infection with symptoms such as fever and serious deterioration of your general condition, or fever with local infection symptoms such as sore throat/pharynx/mouth or urinary problems, you should see your doctor immediately. A blood test will be taken to check possible reduction of white blood cells (agranulocytosis). It is important to inform your doctor about your medicine;
- If you feel sudden, severe pain in your abdomen, chest or back, which can be symptoms of aortic aneurysm and dissection, go immediately to an emergency room; your risk may be increased if you are being treated with systemic corticosteroids;
- If you start experiencing a rapid onset of shortness of breath, especially when you lie down flat in your bed, or you notice swelling of your ankles, feet or abdomen, or a

new onset of heart palpitations (sensation of rapid or irregular heartbeat), you should inform a doctor immediately.

Prolonged, disabling and potentially irreversible serious side effects

Fluoroquinolone / quinolone antibacterial medicines, including ciprofloxacin, have been associated with very rare but serious side effects, some of them being long lasting (continuing months or years), disabling or potentially irreversible. This includes tendon, muscle and joint pain of the upper and lower limbs, difficulty in walking, abnormal sensations such as pins and needles, tingling, tickling, numbness or burning (paraesthesia), sensory disorders including impairment of vision, taste and smell, and hearing, depression, memory impairment, severe fatigue, and severe sleep disorders. If you experience any of these side effects after taking Neocil, contact your doctor immediately prior to continuing treatment. You and your doctor will decide on continuing the treatment considering also an antibiotic from another class.

Other medicines and Neocil

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Do not take Neocil together with tizanidine, because this may cause side effects such as low blood pressure and sleepiness (see Section 2: Do not take Neocil).

The following medicines are known to interact with ciprofloxacin in your body. Taking Neocil together with these medicines can influence the therapeutic effect of those medicines. It can also increase the probability of experiencing side effects.

Tell your doctor if you are taking:

- Vitamin K antagonists (e.g. warfarin, acenocoumarol, phenprocoumon or fluindione) or other oral anti-coagulants (to thin the blood);
- probenecid (for gout);
- methotrexate (for certain types of cancer, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis);
- theophylline (for breathing problems);
- tizanidine (for muscle spasticity in multiple sclerosis);
- olanzapine (an antipsychotic);
- clozapine (an antipsychotic);

- ropinirole (for Parkinson's disease);
- phenytoin (for epilepsy);
- metoclopramide (for nausea and vomiting);
- cyclosporin (for skin conditions, rheumatoid arthritis and in organ transplantation);
- other medicines that can alter your heart rhythm: medicines that belong to the group of antiarrhythmics (e.g. quinidine, hydroquinidine, disopyramide, amiodarone, sotalol, dofetilide, ibutilide), tricyclic antidepressants, some antimicrobials (that belong to the group of macrolides), some antipsychotics;
- zolpidem (for sleep disorders).

Neocil may **increase** the levels of the following medicines in your blood:

- pentoxifylline (for circulatory disorders);
- caffeine;
- duloxetine (for depression, diabetic nerve damage or incontinence);
- lidocaine (for heart conditions or anaesthetic use);
- sildenafil (e.g. for erectile dysfunction);
- agomelatine (for depression).

Some medicines **reduce** the effect of Neocil. Tell your doctor if you take or wish to take:

- antacids;
- omeprazole;
- mineral supplements;
- sucralfate;
- a polymeric phosphate binder (e.g. sevelamer or lanthanum carbonate);
- medicines or supplements containing calcium, magnesium, aluminium or iron.

If these preparations are essential, take Neocil about two hours before or no sooner than four hours after them.

Neocil with food and drinks

Unless you take Neocil during meals, do not eat or drink any dairy products (such as milk or yoghurt) or drinks with added calcium when you take the tablets, as they may affect the absorption of the active substance.

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.

It is preferable to avoid the use of Neocil during pregnancy.

Do not take Neocil during breast-feeding because ciprofloxacin is excreted in breast milk and can be harmful for your child.

Driving and using machines

Neocil may make you feel less alert. Some neurological adverse events can occur. Therefore, make sure you know how you react to Neocil before driving a vehicle or operating machinery. If in doubt, talk to your doctor.

Important information about some of the excipients of Neocil

Neocil contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially “sodium-free”.

3. HOW TO TAKE NEOCIL

Your doctor will explain to you exactly how much Neocil you will have to take as well as how often and for how long. This will depend on the type of infection you have and how bad it is. Tell your doctor if you suffer from kidney problems because your dose may need to be adjusted.

The treatment usually lasts from 5 to 21 days, but may take longer for severe infections.

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure how many tablets to take and how to take Neocil.

- a) Swallow the tablets with plenty of fluid. Do not chew the tablets because they do not taste nice.
- b) Do try to take the tablets at around the same time every day.
- c) You can take the tablets at mealtimes or between meals. Any calcium you take as part of a meal will not seriously affect uptake. However, **do not** take Neocil tablets with dairy products such as milk or yoghurt or with fortified fruit juices (e.g. calcium-fortified orange juice).

Remember to drink plenty of fluids while you are taking this medicine.

If you take more Neocil than you should

If you take more than the prescribed dose, get medical help immediately. If possible, take your tablets or the box with you to show the doctor.

If you forget to take Neocil

Take the normal dose as soon as possible and then continue as prescribed. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose and continue as usual. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. Be sure to complete your course of treatment.

If you stop taking Neocil

It is important that you **finish the course of treatment** even if you begin to feel better after a few days. If you stop taking this medicine too soon, your infection may not be completely cured and the symptoms of the infection may return or get worse. You might also develop resistance to the antibiotic.

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

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

The following section contains the most serious side effects that you can recognize yourself: **Stop taking Neocil and contact your doctor immediately** in order to consider another antibiotic treatment if you notice any of the following serious side effects:

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Seizure (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions).

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- Severe, sudden allergic reaction with symptoms such as tightness in the chest, feeling dizzy, sick or faint, or experience dizziness when standing up (anaphylactic reaction/shock) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);

- Muscle weakness, inflammation of the tendons which could lead to rupture of the tendon, particularly affecting the large tendon at the back of the ankle (Achilles tendon) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- A serious life-threatening skin rash, usually in the form of blisters or ulcers in the mouth, throat, nose, eyes and other mucous membranes such as genitals which may progress to widespread blistering or peeling of the skin (Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis).

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- Unusual feelings of pain, burning tingling, numbness or muscle weakness in the extremities (neuropathy) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- A drug reaction that causes rash, fever, inflammation of internal organs, hematologic abnormalities and systemic illness (DRESS Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms, AGEP Acute Generalised Exanthematous Pustulosis).

Other side effects which have been observed during treatment with ciprofloxacin are listed below by how likely they are:

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- nausea, diarrhoea;
- joint pain and joint inflammation in children.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- joint pain in adults;
- fungal superinfections;
- a high concentration of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell;
- decreased appetite;
- hyperactivity or agitation;
- headache, dizziness, sleeping problems, or taste disorders;
- vomiting, abdominal pain, digestive problems such as stomach upset (indigestion / heartburn), or wind;
- increased amounts of certain substances in the blood (transaminases and/or bilirubin);
- rash, itching, or hives;
- poor kidney function;

- pains in your muscles and bones, feeling unwell (asthenia), or fever;
- increase in blood alkaline phosphatase (a certain substance in the blood).

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- muscle pain, inflammation of the joints, increased muscle tone and cramping;
- inflammation of the bowel (colitis) linked to antibiotic use (can be fatal in very rare cases) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- changes to the blood count (leukopenia, leukocytosis, neutropenia, anaemia), increased or decreased amounts of a blood clotting factor (thrombocytes);
- allergic reaction, swelling (oedema), or rapid swelling of the skin and mucous membranes (angio-oedema) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- increased blood sugar (hyperglycaemia);
- decreased blood sugar (hypoglycaemia) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- confusion, disorientation, anxiety reactions, strange dreams, depression (potentially leading to thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, or completed suicide) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions), or hallucinations;
- pins and needles, unusual sensitivity to stimuli of the senses, decreased skin sensitivity, tremors, or giddiness;
- eyesight problems including double vision (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- tinnitus, loss of hearing, impaired hearing;
- rapid heartbeat (tachycardia);
- expansion of blood vessels (vasodilation), low blood pressure, or fainting;
- shortness of breath, including asthmatic symptoms;
- liver disorders, jaundice (cholestatic icterus), or hepatitis;
- sensitivity to light (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- kidney failure, blood or crystals in the urine, urinary tract inflammation;
- fluid retention or excessive sweating;
- increased levels of the enzyme amylase.

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- a special type of reduced red blood cell count (haemolytic anaemia); a dangerous drop in a type of white blood cells (agranulocytosis) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions); a

drop in the number of red and white blood cells and platelets (pancytopenia), which may be fatal; and bone marrow depression, which may also be fatal

- allergic reaction called serum sickness-like reaction;
- mental disturbances (psychotic reactions potentially leading to thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, or completed suicide) (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions)
- migraine, disturbed coordination, unsteady walk (gait disturbance), disorder of sense of smell (olfactory disorders), pressure on the brain (intracranial pressure and pseudotumor cerebri);
- visual colour distortions;
- inflammation of the wall of the blood vessels (vasculitis);
- pancreatitis;
- death of liver cells (liver necrosis) very rarely leading to life-threatening liver failure (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions);
- small, pin-point bleeding under the skin (petechiae); various skin eruptions or rashes;
- worsening of the symptoms of myasthenia gravis (see Section 2: Warnings and precautions).

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- feeling highly excited (mania) or feeling great optimism and overactivity (hypomania);
- abnormal fast heart rhythm, life-threatening irregular heart rhythm, alteration of the heart rhythm (called 'prolongation of QT interval', seen on ECG, electrical activity of the heart);
- influence on blood clotting (in patients treated with Vitamin K antagonists);
- syndrome associated with impaired water excretion and low levels of sodium (SIADH).

Very rare cases of long lasting (up to months or years) or permanent adverse drug reactions, such as tendon inflammations, tendon rupture, joint pain, pain in the limbs, difficulty in walking, abnormal sensations such as pins and needles, tingling, tickling, burning, numbness or pain (neuropathy), depression, fatigue, sleep disorders, memory impairment, as well as impairment of hearing, vision, and taste and smell have been associated with administration of quinolone and fluoroquinolone antibiotics, in some cases irrespective of pre-existing risk factors.

Cases of an enlargement and weakening of the aortic wall or a tear in the aortic wall (aneurysms and dissections), which may rupture and may be fatal, and of leaking heart valves have been reported in patients receiving fluoroquinolones. See also section 2.

5. HOW TO STORE NEOCIL

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use Neocil after the expiry date, which is stated on the package.

Do not store above 25°C!

Store in the original package to protect it from light and humidity.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Neocil – film-coated tablet contains

The active substance is ciprofloxacin hydrochloride.

Each film-coated tablet contains 581.9 mg ciprofloxacin hydrochloride equivalent to 500 mg ciprofloxacin base.

The other ingredients are:

Tablet core: colloidal anhydrous silica, povidone, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium laurilsulfate, sodium starch glycolate, sodium croscarmellose.

Film coating: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, macrogol, talc.

Content of the pack

Box with 10 film-coated tablets.

Marketing Authorisation Holder (MAH) and Manufacturer:

PROFARMA sh.a.,

St. "Skënder Vila",

Tirana, Albania

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