

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Ziquin 500 mg film-coated tablets

levofloxacin

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

1. What Ziquin tablets are and what they are used for

The name of your medicine is Ziquin tablets. Ziquin tablets contain a medicine called levofloxacin. This belongs to a group of medicines called antibiotics. Levofloxacin is a 'quinolone' antibiotic. It works by killing the bacteria that cause infections in your body.

Ziquin tablets can be used to treat infections of the:

- Sinuses
- Lungs, in people with long-term breathing problems or pneumonia
- Urinary tract, including your kidneys or bladder
- Prostate gland, where you have a long lasting infection
- Skin and underneath the skin, including muscles. This is sometimes called 'soft tissue'.

In some special situations, Ziquin tablets may be used to lessen the chances of getting a pulmonary disease named anthrax or worsening of the disease after you are exposed to the bacteria causing anthrax.

2. What you need to know before you take Ziquin tablets

Do not take this medicine and tell your doctor if:

- You are allergic to levofloxacin, any other quinolone antibiotic such as moxifloxacin, ciprofloxacin or ofloxacin or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- Signs of an allergic reaction include: a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue
- You have ever had epilepsy
- You have ever had a problem with your tendons such as tendonitis that was related to treatment with a 'quinolone antibiotic'. A tendon is the cord that joins your muscle to your skeleton

- You are a child or a growing teenager
- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- You are breast-feeding

Do not take this medicine if any of the above applies to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Ziquin.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking your medicine if:

- ▲ You are 60 years of age or older
- ▲ You are using corticosteroids, sometimes called steroids (see section “Other medicines and Ziquin”)
- ▲ You have ever had a fit (seizure)
- ▲ You have had damage to your brain due to a stroke or other brain injury
- ▲ You have kidney problems
- ▲ You have something known as ‘glucose – 6 – phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency’. You are more likely to have serious problems with your blood when taking this medicine
- ▲ You have ever had mental health problems
- ▲ You have ever had heart problems: caution should be taken when using this kind of medicine, 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 “Other medicines and Ziquin”)
- ▲ You are diabetic
- ▲ You have ever had liver problems
- ▲ You have myasthenia gravis

If you are not sure if any of the above applies to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Ziquin.

Other medicines and Ziquin

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This is because Ziquin can affect the way some other medicines work. Also some medicines can affect the way Ziquin works.

In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines. This is because it can increase the chance of you getting side effects, when taken with Ziquin:

- Corticosteroids, sometimes called steroids – used for inflammation. You may be more likely to have inflammation and/or rupture of your tendons.
- Warfarin - used to thin the blood. You may be more likely to have a bleed. Your doctor may need to take regular blood tests to check how well your blood can clot.
- Theophylline - used for breathing problems. You are more likely to have a fit (seizure) if taken with Ziquin
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) - used for pain and inflammation such as aspirin, ibuprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen and indomethacin. You are more likely to have a fit (seizure) if taken with Ziquin
- Ciclosporin - used after organ transplants. You may be more likely to get the side effects of ciclosporin
- Medicines known to affect the way your heart beats. This includes medicines used for abnormal heart rhythm (antiarrhythmics such as quinidine, hydroquinidine, disopyramide, sotalol, dofetilide, ibutilide and amiodarone), for depression (tricyclic antidepressants such as amitriptyline and imipramine), for psychiatric disorders (antipsychotics), and for bacterial infections (‘macrolide’ antibiotics such as erythromycin, azithromycin and clarithromycin)
- Probenecid – used for gout. Your doctor may want to give you a lower dose if you have kidney problems.

- Cimetidine – used for ulcers and heartburn. Your doctor may want to use a lower dose, if you have kidney problems.

Tell your doctor if any of the above applies to you.

Do not take Ziquin tablets at the same time as the following medicines. This is because it can affect the way Ziquin tablets work:

- Iron tablets (for anemia), zinc supplements, magnesium or aluminium-containing antacids (for acid or heartburn), didanosine, or sucralfate (for stomach ulcers). See Section 3 “If you are already taking iron tablets, zinc supplements, antacids, didanosine or sucralfate” below.

Urine tests for opiates

Urine tests may show ‘false-positive’ results for strong painkillers called ‘opiates’ in people taking Ziquin. If your doctor has prescribed a urine test, tell your doctor you are taking Ziquin.

Tuberculosis tests

This medicine may cause “false-negative” results for some laboratory tests that search for the bacteria that cause tuberculosis.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Do not take this medicine if:

- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- You are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed

Driving and using machines

You may get side effects after taking this medicine, including feeling dizzy, sleepy, a spinning feeling (vertigo) or changes to your eyesight. Some of these side effects can affect you being able to concentrate and your reaction speed. If this happens, do not drive or carry out any work that requires a high level of attention.

3. How to take Ziquin tablets

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

Taking this medicine

- Take this medicine by mouth
- Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water
- The tablets may be taken during meals or at any time between meals

If you are already taking iron tablets, zinc supplements, antacids, didanosine or sucralfate

- Do not take these medicines at the same time as Ziquin. Take your dose of these medicines at least 2 hours before or after Ziquin tablets.

How much to take

- Your doctor will decide on how many Ziquin tablets you should take
- The dose will depend on the type of infection you have and where the infection is in your body
- The length of your treatment will depend on how serious your infection is
- If you feel the effect of your medicine is too weak or strong, do not change the dose yourself, but ask your doctor

Adults and the elderly

Sinuses infection

- One tablet of Ziquin 500 mg, once each day

Lungs infection, in people with long-term breathing problems

- One tablet of Ziquin 500 mg, once each day
Pneumonia
- One tablet of Ziquin 500 mg, once or twice each day
Infection of urinary tract, including your kidneys or bladder
- ½ or one tablet of Ziquin 500 mg, once each day
Prostate gland infection
- One tablet of Ziquin 500 mg, once each day
Infection of skin and underneath the skin, including muscles
- One tablet of Ziquin 500 mg, once or twice each day

Adults and the elderly with kidney problems

Your doctor may need to give you a lower dose.

Children and teenagers

This medicine must not be given to children or teenagers.

Protect your skin from sunlight

Keep out of direct sunlight while taking this medicine and for 2 days after you stop taking it. This is because your skin will become much more sensitive to the sun and may burn, tingle or severely blister if you do not take the following precautions:

- Make sure you use high factor sun cream
- Always wear a hat and clothes which cover your arms and legs
- Avoid sun beds

If you take more Ziquin tablets than you should

If you accidentally take more tablets than you should, tell a doctor or get other medical advice straight away. Take the medicine pack with you. This is so the doctor knows what you have taken. The following effects may happen: convulsive fits (seizures), feeling confused, dizzy, less conscious, having tremor and heart problems - leading to uneven heart beats as well as feeling sick (nausea) or having stomach burning.

If you forget to take Ziquin tablets

If you forgot to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember unless it is nearly time for your next dose. Do not double-up the next dose to make up for the missed dose.

If you stop taking Ziquin tablets

Do not stop taking Ziquin just because you feel better. It is important that you complete the course of tablets that your doctor has prescribed for you. If you stop taking the tablets too soon, the infection may return, your condition may get worse or the bacteria may become resistant to the medicine.

If you have any further questions on 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. These effects are normally mild or moderate and often disappear after a short time.

Stop taking Ziquin and see a doctor or go to a hospital straight away if you notice the following side effect:

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

- You have an allergic reaction. The signs may include: a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, swelling of your lips, face, throat, or tongue

Stop taking Ziquin and see a doctor straight away if you notice any of the following serious side

effects - you may need urgent medical treatment:

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

- Watery diarrhoea which may have blood in it, possibly with stomach cramps and a high temperature. These could be signs of a severe bowel problem
- Pain and inflammation in your tendons or ligaments, which could lead to rupture. The Achilles tendon is affected most often
- Fits (convulsions)

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

- Burning, tingling, pain or numbness. These may be signs of something called ‘neuropathy’

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

- Severe skin rashes which may include blistering or peeling of the skin around your lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals
- Loss of appetite, skin and eyes becoming yellow in colour, dark-coloured urine, itching, or tender stomach (abdomen). These may be signs of liver problems which may include a fatal failure of the liver.

If your eyesight becomes impaired or if you have any other eye disturbances whilst taking Ziquin, consult an eye specialist immediately.

Tell your doctor if any of the following side effects gets serious or lasts longer than a few days:

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Sleeping problems
- Headache, feeling dizzy
- Feeling sick (nausea, vomiting) and diarrhoea
- Increase in the level of some liver enzymes in your blood

Uncommon may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Changes in the number of other bacteria or fungi, infection by fungi named Candida, which may need to be treated
- Changes in the number of white blood cells shown up in the results of some blood tests (leukopenia, eosinophilia)
- Feeling stressed (anxiety), feeling confused, feeling nervous, feeling sleepy, trembling, a spinning feeling (vertigo)
- Shortness of breath (dyspnoea)
- Changes in the way things taste, loss of appetite, stomach upset or indigestion (dyspepsia), pain in your stomach area, feeling bloated (flatulence) or constipation
- Itching and skin rash, severe itching or hives (urticaria), sweating too much (hyperhidrosis)
- Joint pain or muscle pain
- Blood tests may show unusual results due to liver (bilirubin increased) or kidney (creatinine increased) problems
- General weakness

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

- Bruising and bleeding easily due to a lowering in the number of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia)
- Low number of white blood cells (neutropenia)
- Exaggerated immune response (hypersensitivity)
- Lowering of your blood sugar levels (hypoglycaemia). This is important for people that have diabetes
- Seeing or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations, paranoia), change in your opinion

- and thoughts (psychotic reactions) with a risk of having suicidal thoughts or actions
- Feeling depressed, mental problems, feeling restless (agitation), abnormal dreams or nightmares
- Tingling feeling in your hands and feet (paraesthesia)
- Problems with your hearing (tinnitus) or eyesight (blurred vision)
- Unusual fast beating of your heart (tachycardia) or low blood pressure (hypotension)
- Muscle weakness. This is important in people with myasthenia gravis (a rare disease of the nervous system).
- Changes in the way your kidney works and occasional kidney failure which may be due to an allergic kidney reaction called interstitial nephritis.
- Fever

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

- Lowering in red blood cells (anemia): this can make the skin pale or yellow due to damage of the red blood cells; lowering in the number of all types of blood cells (pancytopenia)
- Fever, sore throat and a general feeling of being unwell that does not go away. This may be due to a lowering in the number of white blood cells (agranulocytosis)
- Loss of circulation (anaphylactic like shock)
- Increase of your blood sugar levels (hyperglycaemia) or lowering of your blood sugar levels leading to coma (hypoglycaemic coma). This is important for people that have diabetes
- Changes in the way things smell, loss of smell or taste (parosmia, anosmia, ageusia)
- Problems moving and walking (dyskinesia, extrapyramidal disorders)
- Temporary loss of consciousness or posture (syncope)
- Temporary loss of vision, inflammation of the eye
- Impairment or loss of hearing
- Abnormal fast heart rhythm, life-threatening irregular heart rhythm including cardiac arrest, alteration of the heart rhythm (called 'prolongation of QT interval', seen on ECG, electrical activity of the heart)
- Difficulty breathing or wheezing (bronchospasm)
- Allergic lung reactions
- Pancreatitis
- Inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)
- Increased sensitivity of your skin to sun and ultraviolet light (photosensitivity)
- Inflammation of the vessels that carry blood around your body due to an allergic reaction (vasculitis)
- Inflammation of the tissue inside the mouth (stomatitis)
- Muscle rupture and muscle destruction (rhabdomyolysis)
- Joint redness and swelling (arthritis)
- Pain, including pain in the back, chest and extremities
- Attacks of porphyria in people who already have porphyria (a very rare metabolic disease)
- Persistent headache with or without blurred vision (benign intracranial hypertension)

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

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

5. How to store Ziquin tablets

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is shown on the packaging. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month.

Do not store at a temperature above 30°C.

Keep the blister in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

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 Ziquin contains

The active ingredient is levofloxacin.

Each tablet of Ziquin 500 mg tablets contains 512.5 mg of levofloxacin hemihydrate equivalent to 500 mg of levofloxacin.

The other ingredients are:

Tablet core: hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, croscopovidone, microcrystalline cellulose, colloidal anhydrous silica, pregelatinized corn starch and sodium stearyl fumarate.

- Film coating: Opadry Y-1-7000 and red iron oxide (E-172).

What Ziquin looks like and contents of the pack

Ziquin 500 mg film-coated tablets are biconvex pink color film coated oblong tablets, scored and with "L" engraved on one side. The tablet can be divided into equal halves.

Each pack contains 5 tablets (one blister of 5 tablets), 7 tablets (one blister of 7 tablets) or 10 tablets (one blister of 10 tablets).

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Laboratorios Cinfa, S.A.

Olaz-Chipi, 10 - Polígono Industrial Areta.

31620-Huarte-Pamplona (Navarra) – Spain

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This is a Medicament

- Medicament is a product which affects your health and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament.
- The doctor and the pharmacist are the experts in medicines, their benefits and risks.
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.
- Keep all medicaments out of reach of children.

**Council of Arab Health Ministers
Union of Arab Pharmacists**