PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

^{Pr}KEFLEX®

(Cephalexin Tablets and Oral Suspensions)
250 mg, 500 mg, 125 mg/5 mL and 250 mg/5 mL

Antibiotic

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THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Antibiotic

ACTION

Cephalexin is bactericidal against many gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. *In vitro* tests demonstrate that the cephalosporins are bactericidal through their inhibition of cell-wall synthesis [15].

INDICATIONS

KEFLEX® (cephalexin) may be indicated for the treatment of bacterial infections of the respiratory tract [1, 12) (l3, l4)], including otitis media [1,2], genitourinary tract [3] , bones and joints [4,5], skin and soft tissue [6,7] when the infection is caused by susceptible organisms. Culture and susceptibility studies should be performed.

To reduce the development of drug-resistant bacteria and maintain the effectiveness of KEFLEX® and other antibacterial drugs, KEFLEX® should be used only to treat infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by susceptible bacteria. When culture and susceptibility information are available, they should be considered in selecting or modifying antibacterial therapy. In the absence of such data, local epidemiology and susceptibility patterns may contribute to the empiric selection of therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

KEFLEX® (cephalexin) is contraindicated in patients with known allergy to the cephalosporin group of antibiotics.

WARNINGS

Before therapy with KEFLEX® (cephalexin) is instituted, careful inquiry should be made concerning previous hypersensitivity reactions to cephalosporins, penicillins or other drugs. KEFLEX® should be given only with caution to penicillin-sensitive patients. There is some

evidence of cross-allergenicity between the penicillins and the cephalosporins. Patients have been reported to have had severe reactions (including anaphylaxis) to both.

Antibiotics including KEFLEX® should be administered with caution, and then only when absolutely necessary, to any patient who has demonstrated some form of allergy, particularly to drugs. Of 12,917 clinical trial patients, 462 had histories of penicillin allergy [8]. Twenty-one of them (about 4.6 percent) were among those in whom possible allergic reactions to cephalexin were observed.

Gastrointestinal

***Clostridium difficile*-associated disease**

Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDAD) has been reported with use of many antibacterial agents, including KEFLEX®. CDAD may range in severity from mild diarrhea to fatal colitis. It is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhea, or symptoms of colitis, pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon, or perforation of colon subsequent to the administration of any antibacterial agent. CDAD has been reported to occur over 2 months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

Treatment with antibacterial agents may alter the normal flora of the colon and may permit overgrowth of *Clostridium difficile*. *C. difficile* produces toxins A and B, which contribute to the development of CDAD. CDAD may cause significant morbidity and mortality. CDAD can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy.

If the diagnosis of CDAD is suspected or confirmed, appropriate therapeutic measures should be initiated. Mild cases of CDAD usually respond to discontinuation of antibacterial agents not directed against Clostridium difficile. In moderate to severe cases, consideration should be given to management with fluids and electrolytes, protein supplementation, and treatment with an antibacterial agent clinically effective against Clostridium difficile. Surgical evaluation should be instituted as clinically indicated, as surgical intervention may be required in certain severe case (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Susceptibility/Resistance

Development of Drug-Resistant Bacteria

Prescribing KEFLEX® in the absence of' a proven or strongly suspected bacterial infection is unlikely to provide benefit to the patient and risks the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

PRECAUTIONS

As is the case with all drugs, patients should be followed carefully so that adverse reactions or unusual manifestations of drug idiosyncrasy may be detected. If an allergic reaction to KEFLEX® (cephalexin) occurs, the drug should be discontinued and the patient treated with the usual agents (e.g., epinephrine or other pressor amines, antihistamines, or corticosteroids).

Prolonged use of KEFLEX® may result in overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms. Careful observation of the patient is essential. If super infection occurs during therapy, appropriate measures should be taken.

KEFLEX® should be administered with caution in the presence of markedly impaired renal function. Under such conditions, careful clinical observation and laboratory studies should be made because safe dosage may be lower than that usually recommended.

If KEFLEX® is to be used for long term therapy, periodic monitoring of hematology, renal and hepatic functions should be done.

Indicated surgical procedures should be performed in conjunction with antibiotic therapy; e.g., the incision and drainage of abscesses.

Safety of this product for use during pregnancy has not been established.

Positive direct Coombs' tests have been reported during treatment with the cephalosporin antibiotics. In hematologic studies or in transfusion cross-matching procedures when antiglobulin tests are performed on the minor side or in Coombs' testing of newborns whose mothers have received cephalosporin antibiotics before parturition, it should be recognized that a positive Coombs' test may be due to the drug.

In patients being treated with KEFLEX®, a false-positive reaction for glucose in the urine may occur with Benedict's or Fehling's solutions or with Clinitest tablets, but not with Tes-Tape® (Glucose Enzymatic Test Strip, USP).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Of 12,917 patients treated with KEFLEX® (cephalexin) in formal clinical trials, 771(6%) reported adverse events, of which 385 (3%) were judged to be drug related [8]. Four hundred and sixty-two of these patients had known sensitivity to penicillin, 4.6% reacted. The incidence of reported side effects is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Adverse Events Reported in 12,917 Patients Treated With KEFLEX®

	Relationship to Drug				
	Probable/definite	**Uncertain**	**Discontinued Treatment**	**Total Reports**	**Percent**
Gastrointestinal					
Diarrhea	87	77	31	164	1.3
Nausea	72	62	24	134	1.0
Vomiting	38	44	24	82	0.6
Dyspepsia/G.I. upset	24	7	5	31	0.2
Abdominal cramp/pain	9	8	5	17	0.1

Anorexia	11	6	2	17	0.1
Hypersensitivity					
Skin rash	52	42	42	94	0.7
Urticaria	22	12	19	34	0.3
Central Nervous System					
Headache	7	11	6	18	0.1
Genitourinary					
Genital Moniliasis	42	11	6	53	0.8
Vaginitis	15	11	4	26	0.4
Pruritus Vulvae	10	5	-	15	0.2

Other adverse reactions experienced less frequently include: glossitis/stomatitis, oral moniliasis, pruritus ani, gastroenteritis, fever, pruritus, a positive direct Coombs', allergy/anaphylaxis, intertrigo, angioedema, dizziness, paresthesia, somnolence, visual hallucination/diplopia, insomnia, tremor, leucorrhea, dysuria, malaise/fatigue, super infection, myalgia/back pain, nuchal swelling, dyspnea, cardiac arrhythmia and vasodilatation.

One hundred and seventy patients (1.3%) had abnormal laboratory values. There was no consistent pattern of abnormality and only 2 patients were withdrawn from studies as a result of these findings.

TABLE 2: Abnormal Laboratory Values

	Relationship to drug			
	Probable/Definite	**Uncertain**	**Total Reports**	**Percent**
Hematological				
Eosinophilia	27	18	45	0.4
Biochemical				
Elev. Alk Phosphatase.	9	15	24	0.2
Elev. SGOT	11	21	32	0.3
Elev. SGPT	6	16	22	0.2
Renal				
Elev. BUN	3	11	14	0.1

Other abnormal values reported less frequently included: elevated creatinine, bilirubin and cholesterol; decreased platelets, hemoglobin and/or hematocrit.

The following adverse reactions have been reported during postmarketing experience:

Gastrointestinal

Symptoms of pseudomembranous colitis may appear either during or after antibiotic treatment.

Nausea and vomiting have been reported. The most frequent side effect has been diarrhea. It was very rarely severe enough to warrant cessation of therapy. Dyspepsia and abdominal pain have also occurred. As with some penicillins and some other cephalosporins, transient hepatitis and cholestatic jaundice have been reported.

Hypersensitivity
Allergic reactions in the form of rash, urticaria, angioedema, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, or toxic epidermal necrolysis have been observed. These reactions usually subsided upon discontinuation of the drug. In some of these reactions, supportive therapy may be necessary. Anaphylaxis has also been reported.

Other reactions have included genital and anal pruritus, genital moniliasis, vaginitis and vaginal discharge, dizziness, fatigue, headache, agitation, confusion, hallucinations, arthralgia, arthritis, and joint disorder. Reversible interstitial nephritis, eosinophilia, neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and slight elevations in SGOT and SGPT have been reported.

Vertigo, tinnitus, hearing loss and behavioural changes in young children have been reported with cephalexin use.

OVERDOSAGE

Activated charcoal may be administered to aid in the removal of unabsorbed drug. General supportive measures are recommended.

Signs and Symptoms
Symptoms of oral overdose may include nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress, diarrhea, and hematuria. If other symptoms are present, it is probably secondary to an underlying disease state, an allergic reaction, or toxicity due to ingestion of a second medication.

Treatment
Unless 5 to 10 times the normal dose of cephalexin has been ingested, gastrointestinal decontamination should not be necessary.

Protect the patient's airway and support ventilation and perfusion. Meticulously monitor and maintain, within acceptable limits, the patient's vital signs, blood gases, serum electrolytes, etc. Absorption of drugs from the gastrointestinal tract may be decreased by giving activated charcoal, which, in many cases, is more effective than emesis or lavage; consider charcoal instead of or in addition to gastric emptying. Repeated doses of charcoal over time may hasten elimination of some drugs that have been absorbed. Safeguard the patient's airway when employing gastric emptying or charcoal.

Forced diuresis, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, or charcoal hemoperfusion have not been

established as beneficial for an overdose of cephalexin; however, it would be extremely unlikely that one of these procedures would be indicated.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

KEFLEX® (cephalexin) is administered orally. The adult dosage ranges from 1 to 4 g daily in divided doses. The usual adult dose is 1 g/day in divided doses every 6 hours. For more severe infections or those caused by less susceptible organisms, larger doses may be needed. If daily doses of KEFLEX® greater than 4 g are required, parenteral cephalosporins, in appropriate doses should be considered. The recommended daily dosage for children is 25 to 50 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 6 hours.

For the treatment of bacterial pharyngitis caused by Streptococcus pyogenes group A, and, acute cystitis, the daily dosage may be divided into two and given every 12 hours.

KEFLEX® SUSPENSION

CHILD'S WEIGHT	125 mg/5 mL	250 mg/5 mL
10 kg (22 lb)	1/2 to 1 tsp. q.i.d.	--
20 kg (44 lb)	1 to 2 tsp. q.i.d.	1/2 to 1 tsp. q.i.d.
40 kg (88 lb)	2 to 4 tsp. q.i.d.	1 to 2 tsp. q.i.d.
	OR	
10 kg (22 lb)	1 to 2 tsp. b.i.d.	-
20 kg (44 lb)	2 to 4 tsp. b.i.d.	1 to 2 tsp. b.i.d.
40 kg (88 lb)	4 to 8 tsp. b.i.d.	2 to 4 tsp. b.i.d

In severe infections, the dosage may be doubled.

In the treatment of beta hemolytic streptococcal infections, KEFLEX® therapy should be administered for at least ten days.

To obtain maximum peak levels, KEFLEX® should be administered on an empty stomach.

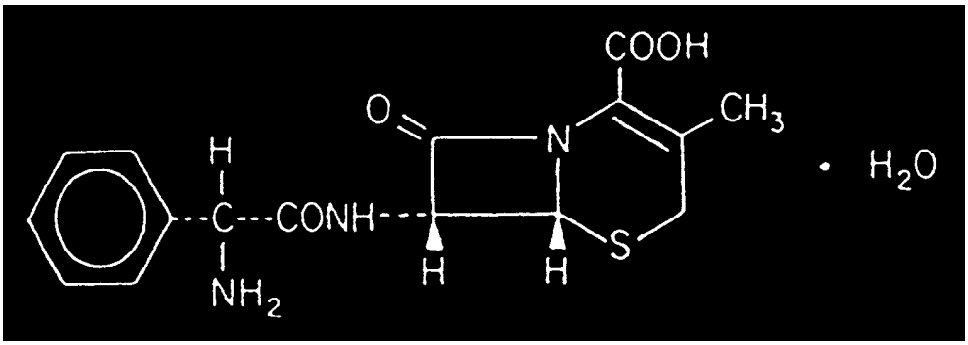
PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance

Trade Name: KEFLEX®

Common Name: Cephalexin Monohydrate

Chemical Name: 7- (D-2-amino-2-phenyl--acetamido) - 3-methyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid monohydrate.



Molecular Formula: $C_{16}H_{17}N_3O_4S \bullet H_2O$

Molecular Weight: 365.40 g/mol

Physicochemical Properties

Description: Cephalexin is an off-white crystalline solid with a bitter taste and faintly sulfurous odor. It is zwitterion and exists essentially as an inner salt at pH levels of 3 to 7. It is supplied as the monohydrate. The dry compound is relatively stable and may be stored at room temperature (25°C).

AVAILABILITY OF DOSAGE FORMS

Each 250 mg tablet of KEFLEX® contains 250 mg of cephalexin (No. 1894), Identi-Code U-57 and contains the following the non-medicinal ingredients: Glycerin, Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose, Starch, Magnesium Stearate, Methyl Cellulose, Pregelatinized Maize Starch, Red Iron Oxide, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Stearic Acid Powder, Talc, Titanium Dioxide and Yellow Iron Oxide. KEFLEX® 250 mg tablets are supplied in bottles of 100 and 500 tablets.

Each 500 tablet of KEFLEX® contains 500 mg of cephalexin (No. 1895), Identi-Code U-49 and contains the following the non-medicinal ingredients: Glycerin, Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose, Magnesium Stearate, Methyl Cellulose, Povidone, Red Iron Oxide, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Talc, Titanium Dioxide and Yellow Iron Oxide. KEFLEX® 500 mg tablets supplied in bottles of 100 and 250 tablets.

KEFLEX® Oral Suspension 125 mg/5mL contains 125 mg of cephalexin per 5 mL (No. M-201), Identi-Code W-21 and contains the following the non-medicinal ingredients: FD&C Red No. 40, Imitation Guarana Flavour, Methylcellulose, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Sucrose Fine Granulated and Sucrose Silicone. KEFLEX® Oral Suspension 125 mg/5mL is supplied in 100 and 200 mL bottles.

KEFLEX® Oral Suspension 250mg/5mL contains 250 mg of cephalexin per 5 mL (No. M-202), Identi-Code W-68 and contains the following the non-medicinal ingredients: FD&C Yellow No. 6, Imitation Guarana Flavour, Methylcellulose, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Sucrose Fine Granulated and Sucrose Silicone. KEFLEX® Oral Suspension 250 mg/5mL is supplied in 100 and 200 mL bottles.

MICROBIOLOGY

KEFLEX® (cephalexin) is active against the following organisms *in vitro*:

Beta-hemolytic and other streptococci (many strains of enterococci; e.g., *Streptococcus faecalis*, are resistant).

Staphylococci, including coagulase-positive, coagulase-negative, and penicillinase-producing strains (a few strains of staphylococci are resistant to cephalexin).

Streptococcus pneumonia	*Proteus mirabilis*
Escherichia coli	*Klebsiella pneumonia*
Hemophilus influenzae	*Branhamella catarrhalis*

KEFLEX® is not active against most strains of Enterobacter sp., *Pr. morganii*, and *Pr. vulgaris*. It has no activity against Pseudomonas or Herellea species. When tested by in vitro methods, staphylococci exhibit cross-resistance between KEFLEX® and methicillin-type antibiotics.

Table 3 shows the tube dilution sensitivity data as supplied by several investigators.

TABLE 3 [11]: Susceptibility of Clinically Isolated Bacteria to KEFLEX® Expressed as Cumulative Percent

ORGANISM	NO. OF ISOLATES	MINIMUM INHIBITORY CONCENTRATION (mcg/mL)					
		#2	2.5 - 4	5-8	10-16	20-32	40-64
Staph. aureus (unspecified)	458	31	58	81	92	97	99
Staph. aureus (penicillin-resistant)	158	41	82	88	98	99	100
Staph. aureus (penicillin-sensitive)	171	68	84	98	100	100	100
Staph. epidermidis	42	29	62	83	91	95	95
Str. pneumoniae	259	57	94	100	100	100	100
Str. pyogenes (group A)	262	84	91	96	99	100	100
E. coli	1165	1	9	40	76	88	92
Klebsiella sp.	533	1	9	55	78	86	88
Pr. mirabilis	535	-	3	14	56	77	84
H. influenzae	258	18	33	62	88	99	100
B. catarrhalis	14	64	100	100	100	100	100

PHARMACOLOGY

Animal

In the dog, there is evidence to show that KEFLEX® is absorbed primarily at the site of the duodenum. In dogs given 10 mg/kg of KEFLEX® intravenously, intramuscularly and orally, the blood serum level was approximately the same after 1 hour and 45 minutes [9]. Most of the drug is excreted in the urine. In rats, 5% of the administered dose was recovered in the bile. The serum half-life in rats and mice is 1.5 hours and 45 minutes respectively. Insignificant amounts enter the cerebrospinal fluid of dogs and monkeys. Variable amounts can be recovered from the breast milk of rats. KEFLEX® distributes well to various tissues of rats, particularly the liver and kidney (see Table 4).

TABLE 4: Cephalexin-^{14}C tissue levels in rats and in mice after a single oral dose of cephalexin-^{14}C (46 mcmoles/kg)

TISSUE	mcg Cephalexin/g Tissue			
	RAT	RAT	MOUSE	MOUSE
	1 Hour	4 Hours	1 Hour	4 Hours
Blood	3.71	2.09	3.59	0.53
Liver	17.11	7.25	12.96	1.93
Spleen	2.21	1.45	1.45	0.4
Kidney	39.93	23.69	27.23	3.53
Lung	3.38	2.58	1.63	0.30

Heart	1.52	1.09	3.31	1.07
Fat	1.54	0.80	1.41	0.34
Muscle	1.16	0.76	1.11	0.32
Brain	0.53	0.24	0.30	0.11

Human

KEFLEX® is well absorbed orally to produce effective peak blood levels within 1 hour. (Figure 1)

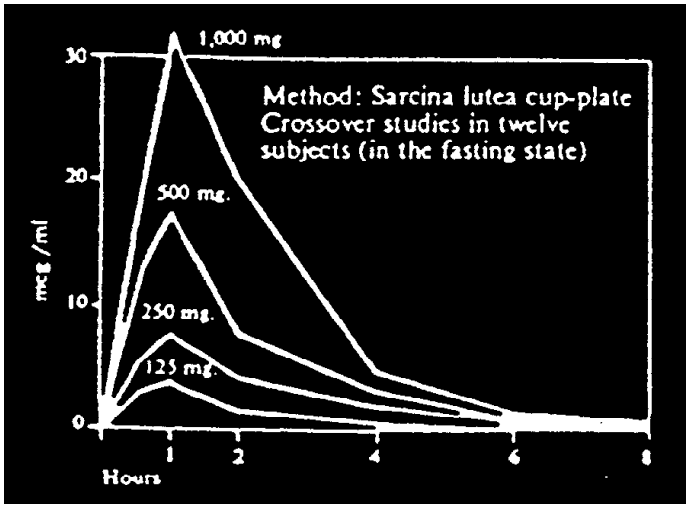


Figure 1: Cephalexin Blood Levels with Various Doses (Fasting Subjects)

Less than 10% of absorbed KEFLEX® is bound to serum protein in concentrations above 1g/mL [(10)]. More than 80% is excreted as cephalexin in the urine. Reflex is acid stable. Food in the stomach causes a delay in onset, a lower peak and a prolongation of blood levels. Approximately 10% less KEFLEX® is excreted in the urine of patients taking food than in that of fasting subjects.

TOXICOLOGY

Acute Toxicity

Table 5 summarizes the acute toxicity data[(9)], which indicate a low order of toxicity in mice, rats, cats, dogs, and monkeys when the drug is given orally. No toxicity was demonstrated until very high doses were reached. Only after single oral doses of 2 to 4.5 g/kg were employed in mice did lethargy or depression and anorexia persist for twenty-four hours. Diuresis was noted.

TABLE 5: Acute Toxicity of Cephalexin
LD_{50} (g/kg)

SPECIES	ORAL	INTRAPERITONEAL	INTRAVENOUS
Mouse	1.6-6.2	0.4-1.6	≥ 0.7
Rat	≥ 5.0 (LD_0)	≥ 3.65	≥ 0.7(LD_0)
(Weanling)	≥ 4.0		
(Newborn)	≥ 3.0		
Cat	≥ 1.0 (LD_0)	≥ 1.0	≥ 0.1(LD_0)
Dog	≥ 2.0 (LD_0)*	≥ 0.5 - ≥ 1.0	≥ 0.1(LD_0)
Monkey	≥ 1.0 (LD_0)*		

* Emesis precluded a study of lethality in these species.

Although histological examination of the kidneys of animals that died revealed slight hydropic degeneration of the tubular epithelium, the cause or causes of death remain uncertain. Kidneys of some of the surviving animals showed regeneration in the tubular epithelium. Kidneys of the other mice surviving these high doses appeared normal. All blood chemistry parameters except BUN were unaffected by a 1000 mg/kg dose. The BUN concentrations increased to 200 mg in the mouse after 30 hours, but the concentrations at 72 hours were normal.

The rat was even less sensitive to cephalexin administered orally. All rats survived a 5 g/kg dose. Kidneys of these animals were found to be free of injury when examined microscopically.

In cats, dogs and monkeys, oral doses of 500 mg/kg produced salivation, emesis, and diarrhea; therefore a satisfactory study of the lethality in these species was precluded. Blood serum concentrations in the dogs and cats were as high as 200 g/mL after one and one-half hours. Twenty-four-hour trough levels were 4 g/mL or less.

A single oral dose of 400 mg/kg was well tolerated in the monkey.

From oral administration to animals, there was no indication that the pediatric formulation enhanced the toxicity of cephalexin. The largest practical dose, 40 mL/kg (1.0 g/kg), caused no deaths.

Intraperitoneal injections produced toxic effects similar to those seen after oral administration.

Subacute and Chronic Toxicity
In animal toxicology studies, organic toxicity was not encountered at doses of 400 mg/kg administered over periods of one year.

The long-term safety of cephalexin was demonstrated in one-month studies in rats, dogs, and monkeys, and one-year studies in rats and dogs. The maximum daily doses of 1000 mg/kg for dogs and monkeys were well tolerated.

The only drug-related effects in the rats were transitory growth suppression, slight diarrhea of short

duration, and enlargement of caecums and colons. The dogs developed transitory appetite suppression, salivation, occasional emesis, and occasional diarrhea. Histopathologic findings were normal, although blood concentrations were as high as 200 g/mL. Short-term studies showed that dogs can tolerate even larger doses (1000 to 2000 mg/kg) with salivation and emesis as the most serious side-effects. Salivation and moderate diarrhea were the only side-effects observed in monkeys.

Intravenous doses of 15 to 60 mg/kg/day of cephalexin were well tolerated for fourteen days by rats; dogs tolerated daily intravenous injections of 7.5 to 30 mg/kg. No apparent adverse effects were observed.

Reproduction and Teratology

The fertility and reproduction of rats and mice were not affected by daily oral doses of cephalexin as great as 500 mg/kg. Skeletal abnormalities occurring in two out of twenty-two litters of mice included wavy ribs and varus limb conditions, but were not considered drug related[9]. The survival of the rat progeny at twelve and twenty-one days of age was significantly less than that of the control animals in one study, but was similar to the control animals in another study.

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READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

PrKEFLEX®

(Cephalexin Tablets and Oral Suspensions)
250 mg, 500 mg, 125 mg/5 mL and 250 mg/5 mL

Read this carefully before you start taking KEFLEX® and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about KEFLEX®.

What is KEFLEX® used for?

- KEFLEX® is used to treat certain bacterial infections in the:
    - respiratory tract;
    - ear (otitis media);
    - genitals and urinary tract;
    - bones and joints;
    - skin and soft tissue.
- Antibacterial drugs like KEFLEX® treat only bacterial infections. They do not treat viral infections, such as the common cold.

How does KEFLEX® work?

KEFLEX® is an antibiotic that:

- Stops the growth of bacteria
- Kills bacteria

What are the ingredients in KEFLEX®?

Medicinal ingredients: Cephalexin

Non-medicinal ingredients:
250 mg Tablets: Glycerin, Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose, Starch, Magnesium Stearate, Methyl Cellulose, Pregelatinized Maize Starch, Red Iron Oxide, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Stearic Acid Powder, Talc, Titanium Dioxide and Yellow Iron Oxide.

500 mg Tablets: Glycerin, Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose, Magnesium Stearate, Methyl Cellulose, Povidone, Red Iron Oxide, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Talc, Titanium Dioxide and Yellow Iron Oxide.

125 mg / 5 mL Oral Solution: FD&C Red No. 40, Imitation Guarana Flavour, Methylcellulose, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Sucrose Fine Granulated and Sucrose Silicone.
250 mg / 5 mL Oral Solution: FD&C Yellow No. 6, Imitation Guarana Flavour, Methylcellulose, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Sucrose Fine Granulated and Sucrose Silicone.

KEFLEX® comes in the following dosage forms:
250 mg Tablets: Supplied in bottles of 100 and 500 Tablets.
500 mg Tablets: Supplied in bottles of 100 and 250 Tablets.
125 mg / 5 mL Oral Suspension: Supplied in 100 and 200 mL bottles.
250 mg / 5 mL Oral Suspension: Supplied in 100 and 200 mL bottles.

Do not use KEFLEX® if:

- you are allergic to cephalexin, cephalosporin antibiotics or to any of the other ingredients in KEFLEX®

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take KEFLEX®. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- you are allergic to or react badly to penicillins or other antibiotics.
- you have intestinal or bowl problems.
- you have kidney problems.
- you are pregnant or plan to be pregnant.
- you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.

Other warnings that you should know about:

- Using antibiotics like KEFLEX® may cause with Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDAD). See "Serious side effects and what to do about them", below.
- KEFLEX® may interfere with some blood and urine test results. Talk to your doctor if you are given a blood or urine test while taking KEFLEX®.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

How to take KEFLEX®:

- Take KEFLEX® orally on an empty stomach.
- Although you may feel better early in treatment, KEFLEX® should be used exactly as directed.
- Misuse or overuse of KEFLEX® could lead to the growth of bacteria that will not be killed by KEFLEX® (resistance). This means that KEFLEX® may not work for you in the future.
- Do not share your medicine.

Usual dose:

Adult:

The adult dosage ranges from 1 to 4 g daily in divided doses. The usual adult dose is 1 g/day in divided doses every 6 hours.

Children:

The recommended daily dosage for children is 25 to 50 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 6 hours.

Overdose:

Symptoms of oral overdose may include:

- nausea
- vomiting
- abdominal pain
- diarrhea
- bloody urine

If you think you have taken too much KEFLEX®, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

What are possible side effects from using KEFLEX®?

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking KEFLEX®. If you experience any side effects not listed here, contact your healthcare professional.

You may experience diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, loose stools, abdominal pain, diaper rash, inflammation of the vagina or discharge, dizziness, fatigue, headache, agitation, confusion, hallucinations or symptoms that you do not understand. You should tell your health professional for of any of these symptoms as soon as possible.

Vertigo (loss of balance or unsteadiness), tinnitus (ringing in the ears), hearing loss and behavioural changes in young children have been reported.

KEFLEX® may also cause effects such as yellowing of the whites of the eyes or skin (jaundice) or the inflammation of the liver (hepatitis).

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	**Talk to your healthcare professional**		**Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help**
	Only if severe	**In all cases**	
RARE			
Symptoms of a severe bowel condition (*Clostridium difficile* colitis): • persistent diarrhea • bloody or watery diarrhea • abdominal or stomach pain/cramping • blood/mucus in stool			√
Severe skin reactions: • skin rash, which may blister, and looks like small targets (central dark spots surrounded by a paler area, with a dark ring around the edge) • widespread rash with blisters and skin peeling on much of the body surface particularly around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals.			√

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

Tablets:
Store between 15°C and 30°C. Keep tightly closed.

Oral Suspension:
Store dry powder between 15°C and 30°C. Suspension may be kept for 14 days in a refrigerator without significant loss of potency.

Keep tightly closed. Shake well before using.

If you want more information about KEFLEX®:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html); or by calling the manufacturer at 1-888-550-6060.

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