

Fluoroquinolone Fact Sheet

Fluoroquinolones (FQ) are commonly overprescribed, especially in the outpatient setting.

Common FDA-approved FQs include ciprofloxacin (Cipro), levofloxacin (Levaquin), moxifloxacin (Avelox) and delafloxacin (Baxdela).

FQs are broad-spectrum antibiotics with activity against Gram-positive, Gram-negative, and atypical bacteria and are available in both intravenous and oral dosage forms.

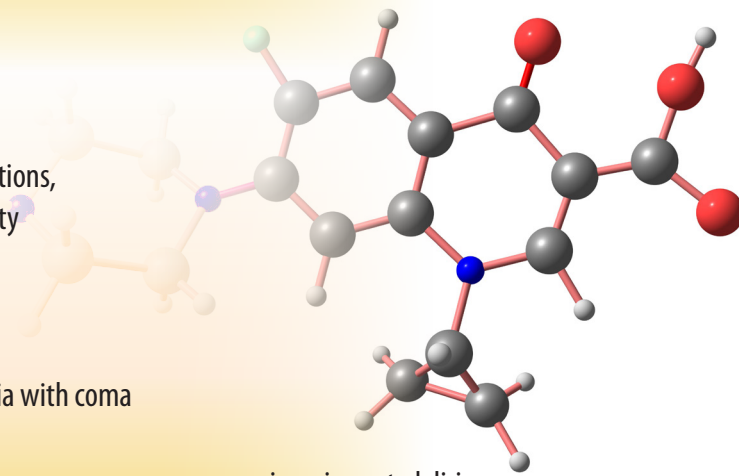
Each FQ varies in its spectrum of activity, metabolism, and elimination.

FQ resistance is increasing among Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria.



FQs are associated with several adverse effects including:

- *Clostridioides difficile*-associated diarrhea
- Tendonitis and tendon rupture
- Muscle and joint pain
- QTc prolongation and Torsades de Pointes
- Central nervous system effects including hallucinations, suicidal thought, confusion, depression, and anxiety
- Photosensitivity and skin rash
- Aortic aneurysm and dissection
- Worsening of myasthenia gravis
- Blood glucose disturbances including hypoglycemia with coma
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Mental Health Side Effects- disorientation, agitation, nervousness, memory impairment, delirium



FDA Drug Safety Communication Summary

- **The risks of FQs outweigh the benefits** for acute bacterial sinusitis, acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections

5/12/16 <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/ucm500325.htm>

7/26/16 <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm511530.htm>

7/10/18 <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm611032.htm>

12/20/18 <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm628753.htm>



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