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INFORMATION ON CEPHALEXIN (KEFLEX)

What is Cephalexin?

- Keflex is an antibiotic which is effective in treating certain bacteria. It is sometimes used to treat hair loss conditions such as folliculitis decalvans

How is Cephalexin prescribed?

- Dr. Donovan will describe how he would like you to use Keflex.
- It is normally taken as 500 mg pills four times per day. You should take it on an empty stomach. Do not take with fruit juice or carbonated drinks.
- For children older than 1 year the dose is according to weight:
- It is important to take for the full period it is prescribed. Take it for the full period (unless you feel unwell, in which case you should stop)

Can I use Cephalexin with other treatments?

- It is sometimes recommended that those women on an oral contraceptive use a back-up method of protection while on this medication
- Tell Dr Donovan if you are on these medications: blood thinners, probenecid. Drugs other than these may also interact with this drug . Talk to Dr. Donovan before taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicines

Who should not use Cephalexin?

- Do not take Keflex if you are allergic to Keflex or Penicillin or Cephalosporin type antibiotics
- Tell your physician if you have ever had asthma, colitis, diabetes, or kidney or liver disease before taking Keflex.
- All women must inform Dr. Donovan if they are pregnant or breast feeding before using Keflex.
- Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you have kidney disease, stomach or intestinal disease, or infectious mononucleosis. You may not be able to take this medication because of an increased risk of side effects.

What side effects are possible with Cephalexin?

- upset stomach, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, anxiety, colitis, confusion, convulsions, dizziness, hives, liver problems and jaundice, fungal infections, rash, appetite loss.
- white patches on the tongue (thrush/yeast infection);
- itching or discharge of the vagina (vaginal yeast infection); or
- black, "hairy" tongue or sore mouth or tongue.
- Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Be sure to let Dr. Donovan know about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.
- Rare irritation of liver (hepatitis)
- Rare drop in blood counts (with long term users)
- Rare infectious diarrhea called pseudomembranous colitis

What side effects should prompt me to STOP Keflex?

- Stop taking Keflex if you experience reactions such as rash, fever, itching, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, and or sores on the genitals.
- Stop taking Keflex if an allergic reaction develops (shortness of breath; closing of your throat; hives; swelling of your lips, face, or tongue; rash; or fainting);
- Stop taking Keflex if you get seizures
- Stop taking Keflex if you develop severe watery diarrhea and abdominal cramps
- Stop taking Keflex if you develop unusual bleeding or bruising.

