

LabMed Report

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IN THIS ISSUE: Fluoroquinolones

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The FDA recently released these statements:

"We have determined that fluoroquinolones should be reserved for use in patients who have no other treatment options for acute bacterial sinusitis, (ABS), acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis (ABECB), and uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTI) because the risk of these serious side effects generally outweighs the benefits in these patients. For some serious bacterial infections the benefits of fluoroquinolones outweigh the risks, and it is appropriate for them to remain available as a therapeutic option.

Patients must contact your health care professional immediately if you experience any serious side effects while taking your fluoroquinolone medicine. Some signs and symptoms of serious side effects include unusual joint or tendon pain, muscle weakness, a "pins and needles" tingling or pricking sensation, numbness in the arms or legs, confusion, and hallucinations. Talk with your health care professional if you have any questions or concerns (see **List of Serious Side Effects from Fluoroquinolones**).

Health care professionals should not prescribe systemic fluoroquinolones to patients who have other treatment options for acute bacterial sinusitis (ABS), acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis (ABECB), and uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTI) because the risks outweigh the benefits in these patients. Stop fluoroquinolone treatment immediately if a patient reports serious side effects, and switch to a non-fluoroquinolone antibacterial drug to complete the patient's treatment fluoroquinolones in [May 2016](#). Additional communications about related safety issues associated with fluoroquinolones occurred in [August 2013](#) (peripheral neuropathy) and [July 2008](#) (tendinitis and tendon rupture). The safety issues described in this Drug Safety Communication were also discussed at an [FDA Advisory Committee meeting](#) in November 2015."

History of Adverse Event Warnings with Fluoroquinolones:

- **July 2008:** Increased risk of tendonitis and tendon rupture
- **February 2011:** Risk of worsening symptoms for those with myasthenia gravis
- **August 2013:** Risk of irreversible peripheral neuropathy
- **November 2015:** Risk of using fluoroquinolones for uncomplicated infections outweighs benefit

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

https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/UCMS51_3019pdf