

The American public needs to be afforded the right of informed consent with a medication as potent as fluoroquinolones. The manufacturers of fluoroquinolone antibiotics have failed to warn both the public and the medical profession of serious long term physical and neurological injuries. The manufacturers have minimized, distorted, and trivialized these serious adverse reactions. This deception and fraud by the drug manufacturers not only costs the victim and their family but also the taxpayer in terms of increased medical care costs, disability payments, and lost productivity.

Matt Allen 1 week ago

A friend of mine just died yesterday. He was diagnosed with pneumonia 4 days ago and was prescribed Levaquin. He had a terrible reaction to it, severe pain in his legs and went to the hospital. It shut down his kidneys and was dead within two days. He was 41 and in incredible shape. He played soccer weekly and worked out 4-5 days a week. I'm still in shock and came across this while looking up info on Levaquin.

Doreta Houck Just an update ..I now am having physical therapy 3 times a week for 12 weeks on my shoulder due to 3 torn places and now my shoulder is "frozen" due to lack of use due to the pain ..two of the torn places ,they are hoping to heal with all this but the ligament inside the rotator cuff itself will require surgery..all after taking Cipro ..my father is doing better after a near deadly "one dose " of Avelox ..he will never be his old self but so Blessed he is still with us..wish we had a warning before..didn't know that you are more likely to be hurt by these meds if a family member had..I would of never taken the Cipro ..my thoughts n prayers go out to those that suffer from the same....

Cindy Pauly DeLaurentis My dad was floxed nearly the same time as me when he was given levequan post surgery for bladder infection. He's 77& extremely frail. He was 72 & in good health, active, enjoying all his world wide traveling when it happened. He's now just a shadow of his former self. Constant pain. Wheelchair bound. I think the above statement is extremely well done.

Arley Cimmino I was out of work for 6 months due to Cipro, disability would not cover me bc nothing could be proved. I was unable to go on my honeymoon because I could not walk without having a panic attack or getting dizzy. My heart felt like it was going to explode. Besides the Neurological effects of the Cipro I have never really been sick, never had panic attacks or issues like that. Never been rushed to the hospital. I have slowly gotten back to normal but I still have issues here and there where my eyes can't focus. I see little white splotches. I will never get back my wedding, or my honeymoon. I wish I knew what this would have done to me I would have never taken it.

Doreta Houck Sounds so much like my dad..67 years old ..outgoing ,was still working, traveling, restoring vintage cars and now does not enjoy life at all..has tendon damage, diabetic, and on numerous heart medication..due to his heart attack 30 mins.after taking Avelox..never was sick a day and now just a totally diff.person ..miss the man before but so Blessed he survived this terrible thing that has happened to him..

Doreta Houck I have become weak..no energy..and anxiety as well ,along with the cipro ..not only the torn places in my shoulder and arm..It takes all my energy to clean my home..I have to stop and rest ..I can't believe there is nothing that can be done abt this..my Ortho Dr doesn't acknowledge the fact that an antibiotic could do this..but my physical therapist has heard about it...no one in the medical field wants to admit that this is really happening ..

Megan Warren

I was a perfectly healthy person who took three doses of Levaquin for misdiagnosed bronchitis, now I'm not only floxed with no end in sight, I also developed RSD from the tendonitis and am on complete disability. I just want my life back, I was 38 and in great health, now I use a wheelchair and am a shell of my former self. If I had known, I'd never have taken that pill from the nurse in the ER that said it was "an antibiotic". We have a right to be informed about poisons they are putting in us before taking them.

From Facebook 8/17/11:

- Dan Kaufman  
Hello...new here...was going to start a group if one didn't already exist...and glad it already does. I took Levaquin in April, and I'm still suffering from a severe case of tendonitis, mostly in my knees and ankles/Achilles heels. I've been doing PT for about a month now. I've noticed that when I do too much (it doesn't seem like too much at the time), it's like 1 step forward, 2 steps back--I'm worse off the next several days, in more pain and more debilitated. My PT doesn't know what to tell me except not to push myself too much. Anyone else experience this phenomenon?

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- Hi Dan..I took Levaquin in 2008, 10 pills @ 500mg, and it totally ruined my knees. Torn cartilage and tendon damage. Damage has migrated to other parts of the legs. I have yet to find anyone who really gets tendon damage, and just from my experience, immobilization is the only remedy. Cold feels good. I've been to a couple therapists, orthopedic docs, and most recently a sports doctor, who think stretching and gently rubbing out the tendons will help. It absolutely does not help and only inflames. Not to mention the pain when just applying pressure to the area. For instance, I cannot kneel. If I get on my knees it really hurts. If I tell someone you can't improve a tendon by gently stretching, they think I'm wrong. One ortho doc actually caused me a painful two month setback after he manipulated the knees to bend beyond what they can handle. I was literally crying out in his office. I gave up having anyone do PT on my knees after a while, because I was always worse afterwards.

Yesterday at 8:19am

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- Sean Van Dyck Dan, I am going through the exact same thing. I took a high dose of Cirpo for 10 days in May. I have been doing PT for 3 weeks. I mostly have Achilles tendon problems but I also have knee problems and other issues as well. I made a lot of progress. Then last week we pushed it too far. It did not hurt at the time, but now my Achilles have been really sore for 4 days now. I am hoping the clam back down soon.

Yesterday at 8:28am

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- Dan Kaufman Hi Nancy. 2008. Wow. I'm getting that each person's experience is different, but...wow. Yeah, when my PT adds something to my regimen, I'm excited when I can do it, and then I feel like I've been set back a whole week or more by the next day. I'm definitely better than I was right after I'd stopped taking Levaquin. Then, I could barely walk for 2 days, and going up and down stairs was nearly impossible. I can do both now with relative ease (though I get thrown when suddenly I get a stinging, persistent pain that will last for like a half hour, then disappear). Kneeling is difficult, as is squatting. Before Levaquin, I was a rower and an ace 2-stepper--now I can't do either. It just blows my mind that this medication is still on the market. I didn't sign up to be a guinea pig.

Yesterday at 8:32am

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- [Melinda Dwy](#) Hi Dan-so sorry you had to join this site but glad you found it. The ladies that put this together are FANTASTIC people with the biggest most compassionate hearts. I was floxed in April of 09. I was sent to PT a few times and each time would set me back in bed in chronic pain for days to weeks. Pushing ourselves seems to be what drs. and ourselves, at times, want to do, but never seems to help. I said earlier on here somewhere- The turtle wins the race-slow and steady...When you wrote-it sounds like mostly tendon issues is that correct? No nerve pain and other issues? Rest and heal.
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Three years ago, I was a healthy 23 year old guy who came down with an acute case of bronchitis. Now I am little more than a shell of my former self, completely disabled with severe body-wide tendon and muscle problems, nerve damage and a myriad of other neurological, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal symptoms.

My experiences since taking a fluoroquinolone amount to nothing less than physical and psychological torture. I spend every day feeling like I am 80 years old.

Every doctor I have seen in the past three years has concluded that my symptoms are a result of fluoroquinolone toxicity, but none of them have had any idea of how to treat my symptoms. Three years of regular physical therapy has only succeeded in keeping me out of wheelchair, though I am still housebound and unable to perform most rudimentary physical tasks. I require a headset and speech-recognition software to type.

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### **Anonymous said...**

I'm a doctor myself and had a severe ongoing reaction to levaquin 19 months ago which has left me with long term neuropathy and musculoskeletal pain and other things. I have personally met now over 50 patients in my community with pretty serious reactions to the fluoroquinolones, yet other doctors are still reluctant to believe. I have met a few other doctors who have had a fluoroquinolone reaction but most of them are silent for various reason. The true incidence of serious long term reactions to fluoroquinolones are tremendously under-reported, and under-recognized by the medical community.

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I have gone from being a fully productive human being, achievement orientated, focused on family, academics, work, community/volunteering, friends/socializing, politics, active hobbies, to being a person who can't even work to pay for my now exorbitant healthcare requirements - and all thanks to fluoroquinolones. that is, thanks to the drug companies who do not own up to the dangerous side-effects, and the governmental bodies who endorse them. so, thanks for ruining my life, and decreasing the value of those people and things that are now robbed of my attentions.  
bea.

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I am a 23 year old student who took just 3 doses of cipro. The reaction started 2 hours after the first dose and over a 5 month period I've experienced over 35 symptoms. I was going to medical school this year, however now I have to put this on hold until late 2009 so that I can regain my physical and mental abilities to deal with university.  
I was very healthy prior to taking cipro, I never had any health major problems. Immediately after taking the first dose I got tingling, insomnia, tendinitis, nightmares and much more

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**Karen said...**

I have also been damaged by this antibiotic given to me for a simple UTI, prescribed inappropriately for 2 weeks! Thank goodness I stopped after 9 pills of cipro. Missed work for 2.5 months as an eye doctor, because I couldn't walk. I have ongoing pain and loss of functioning and it is now 4 months later. I have experienced peripheral neuropathy, tendon damage, crystaluria, gallstones, kidney stones, heart palpitations, intracranial pressure, blurry vision, vasculitis, etc. I have 3 small children and it has ruined my life. I forgot to mention the ongoing food allergies that have come up, can't have about 10 different things now, makes life very difficult. We have no one to help us get better or receive any compensation

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**Anonymous said...**

Count me in as another person injured by a fluoroquinolone. Until the word gets out to the medical community, doctors are going to continue to prescribe this poison. I have told everyone I know to NEVER take one of these antibiotics. There are much safer drugs that should be prescribed instead of the fqs.  
I pray every day that I will make a complete recovery. So far, I've been in pain for about 4 months. There are others that are going on 4 years. This is a horrible tragedy and one that will happen, unfortunately, to many more people. And, once it has happened, nobody knows how to help. God help us all.

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So, to take a quinolone or fluoroquinolone antibiotic means to take a potent toxic compound. There is no reason to prescribe or take them unless it is absolutely necessary. Do not be so naive as to believe that the medical system, and the FDA have assessed properly the safety of these antibiotics, because they have clearly not done so, as you can learn through this report or doing your own research.

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I too was a healthy 50+ y/o male until I took Cipro. I was not warned of any permanent side effects by my Dr. I am now barely able to walk and have constant pain in every joint of my body 2 yrs. later. This class of antibiotic is just too toxic to be used unless the patient is on the verge of death and nothing else has worked

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I am an RN that gave these drugs out for years in the form of a prescription or the real thing prescribed by M.D.s and probably would not have believed it either till I was poisoned. Now, I like Shelly have two boys to raise and you can bet "absolutely NO fluoroquinolones or Flagyl!" will be on their medical records

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#### **Anonymous said...**

I am a victim of Levaquin poisoning. I was a healthy 41-year-old female until February 2010. I was given a 10-day course (500 mg per day) of Levaquin for a suspected sinus infection. The day immediately following the last dose I was overwhelmed with joint and tendon pain all over my body. I was barely able to walk. I had severe stomach upset, abdominal pain, pain in the sternum and chest, peripheral neuropathy, vision problems and mental confusion. These symptoms have subsided a bit, but took around 4 months to do so. After month 4 is when more problems began. I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism and discovered a large, complex cyst on my ovary. I had the ovary and cyst removed and the mass was tested. Thankfully, it was not malignant. I now must take thyroid medication daily for the rest of my life. My lung capacity is diminished and it feels as if there is a weight sitting on my chest all the time. I have recently (in the last 2 weeks) had a resurgence of the original symptoms of the reaction. I am almost one year out from the initial poisoning. Before taking Levaquin, I was a very active person and was in the best shape of my life. I had recently lost 40 pounds. I did at least 4 to 5 hours of cardio a week, worked 50 hours a week and took care of my 4-year-old son with special needs. Now most of my days are spent in pain, trying my best to drag myself out of bed and get to work so I can keep a roof over my head. The exercising is long gone and I feel like a shell of the person I once was. The saddest part is that I have a little boy that doesn't understand why Mommy can't always do everything for him that she used to do. It breaks my heart every single day.

6:58 AM

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#### **Jacquelin Matthews said...**

I too am a victim of this toxic antibiotic, Levaquin has ruined my life, I am no longer the person I once was. I feel like these drugs have waged chemical warfare with my body. I am angered by the fact that I was NOT told of the black box warnings so I could make an educated decision as to whether take these drugs or not!! Also when I went to ER to report side effects like the package insert says, they say nothing is wrong! or shrug their shoulders and say I don't know what is wrong..can you imagine how SCARY that is??? I was given Levaquin 3 times, Avelox once along with steroids. I have been diagnosed with the following as POSSIBLE, not confirmed diagnoses so far: RA, fibromyalgia, hypothyroidism, MRSA, Lyme disease, myalgia, tendinitis, IBS, ADHD, vertigo, chronic fatigue syndrome, acute and chronic musculoskeletal pain, high blood pressure, mitral valve prolapse, heart palpitations. Their remedy? MORE drugs! This madness has to end!! The only purpose I can find in my pain is warning others and asking the companies and the FDA WHY??????? My best advice? PLEASE research ALL

medications before you take them, I do....I just didn't Levaquin because I "assumed" it was just another run of the mill antibiotic.....God how wrong I was...

4:02 AM

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#### Joe said...

I took Avelox for 7 days starting April 4, 2011 for pneumonia. Since I have been extremely anxious, agitated and have terrible tremors. Any stress, feeling tired or being chilled set to the symptoms. I also now stutter when I have even the slightest stress. I had a CT which is normal. My doctor isn't sure this is related to the drug but I went on line and found many other complaints with identical problems. I am taking Diazepam which helps some. I am becoming very depressed as I don't think this will ever resolve itself

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How do I deal w/ the fact that the life I had is gone. Over, because of the INCOMPETENCY of our DOCTORS....AND GOVERNMENT??!! My life has completely changed. Everything about my life.....the pain and suffering have been HORRENDOUS!!! It's INCOMPREHENSIBLE how this has happened to me....and so many others who are suffering NEEDLESSLY!!!! I receive email from people on a daily basis....people I have never met or even heard of before....searching for answers.....suffering, begging, praying..... And as it stands today, we have NO PROTOCOL FOR HEALING....NO RECOURSE FOR COMPENSATION!!!! NOTHING!!!! OMG what has happened to us??!!!!

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jmmatlock· Joined On7/20/2007 4:16:59 P

Is there any way to combat this if the damage has been done? I took a 4-wk course of Cipro (500mg 2xday) for a UTI in September 2007. By the end of that time, I was experiencing severe pain (right lower abdomen) which has persisted since. I've had way too many invasive medical procedures since then, placing my ignorant trust in doctors who swore they knew what the problem was and how to "fix" it. I've even lost an ovary over this, with no relief. My days are either lived in constant agony or under the haze of narcotic painkillers. No one has even mentioned that it all might be due to the Cipro. Is there any hope, or am I doomed to live in this pain for the rest of my life (I'm only 33!)?

Posted On 7/18/2009 11:10:38 AM

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ameyve· Joined On9/27/2008 9:15:58 PM

I'm in shock. This is the first I've heard of this.

My fibromyalgia started during a round of Cipro for sinus infection. That's actually in my medical record. That was way back, I can't remember exactly the date, and I lived in a different country then. I'm going to find it. I've had several doses of cipro since then.

All these years I've been blaming myself - I've always eaten healthy food and exercised plenty, but it must be something I did, I told myself. Why do I have this and other people don't? The worst part has been the years of trying to figure it out, with the medical profession humoring me with pain killers and the naturopaths selling me thousands of useless supplements. The financial consequences of this!!

I keep active but I am constantly injuring myself doing things that others can do with no problem. I keep going, but I'm always dealing with soft tissue injuries. I can't count on having energy - each night when I

go to bed, I pray that the next day will be a good one. I do everything dr mercola recommends, but I still have bad days.

I'm in shock, I need to go away and think about this. I'm just sick to my stomach over this.

Posted On 7/18/2009 10:25:19 AM

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John Karlsson Considering how many people have health issues after being floxed it is a mystery to me there is not a network of specialized medical providers for it. Time is money and health is priceless (you realize once you lose it). Since I live overseas in Europe I figure my chances are even more slim finding a specialist on this who can route me to the right care (money out of pocket or not). My #1 problem so far has been joints/tendons. **Even without any other damages, this is enough to cause all kinds of long-term illness as it prevents exercise and mental stress leading to sleep deprivation, depression and psychosomatic sickness.** I am looking for that one trusted provider who understands/accepts that cipro caused my problems and take that into consideration when suggesting treatments. I live in Sweden.

November 13 at 1:34pm

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Dino Gnanamgariposted toFluoroquinolone Antibiotic Toxicity (Cipro, Levaquin, Avelox, Floxin)

November 18.

It's been almost 7 months. I am trying my best. The tinnitus, the heart pulse and the eye floaters have not subsided at all. How long will this suffering last? It's so hard sometimes to move on when you can tangibly remember who you were before this horrific and atrocious experience. How can one move on when the pain is so viscerally present on a daily basis? Do we desensitize our feelings just to exist? If so are we living a diluted version of what our lives were meant to be? Difficult questions to ponder and comprehend much less find solutions to.

Unfortunately the CNS symptoms are the worst ones to deal with. A casual observer can only visualize your external appearance but has no appreciation of the internal turmoil. I understand that we need to move forward despite our limitations. Easier said than done. Family and friends after a while get tired of hearing the the same old "story" and get less patient over time. I wish the story would evolve and point to a brighter future. It seems like it has been stuck in the same place for some time. Unfortunately life demands that I fullfil the same pressing obligations on a daily basis. There is no respite.

I don't feel optimistic today. I am sorry that I am venting on the eve of a holiday season. I wish I were more cheerful. Hope everyone else is doing ok. I also hope that I made sense in this post. My brain is no longer what it used to be. Articulation to cogently present arguments used to be my strong suit.

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Lisa Hendrickson I had three exposures to these antibiotics. Felt like I'd been beaten with a bat in 2008. Unexplained rhabdomyolosis in 2010. Last took Cipro in August 2011 and had immediate symptoms - muscle fasciculations (twitching) and neuropathy. Three months later, a disc in my back blew out. Then knee cartilage snapped. Then tendonitis in my legs along with muscle atrophy. I didn't connect the dots to the drug until Sept. 2012. Started eating healthier and taking antioxidants and I'm still trying to recover. As I sit here and write this, my muscles are still twitching.

Sunday at 12:15pm

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Jc Johnson posted to Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic Toxicity (Cipro, Levaquin, Avelox, Floxin)

December 18, 2012.

I need resources to take to the doctor on Thursday about how Levaquin affects the Achilles tendons - factual studies. If you know of any will you respond and tell me where to look. I took a 10 day prescription, 500 mg) of Levaquin for a sinus infection, the day after finished the prescription the left Achilles tendon popped. After six weeks in a boot the right Achilles tendon went as well. Have been in physical therapy since then, had a set back. The doctor thinks I should be much further along than I am and they are considering surgery. I just need to know if the healing time is longer than normal due to the way that Levaquin affects the tendons or if surgery is necessary. The official diagnosis is "Achilles tendonopathy bilateral extremities." I called the manufacturer Janssen and they will not give me the information. I really don't want to have surgery if it is not necessary.

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Christy Jackman posted to Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic Toxicity (Cipro, Levaquin, Avelox, Floxin)

December 15, 2012 near Scottsdale, AZ.

I am amazed that I am asking this on face book but it's the weekend. Day 3 of Ciprofloxacin 500 x 2 daily and Metronidazol 500 x 3 daily. I am kind of spooked, my heels and wrists ache and kind of hurt my neck is stiff and my arms feel weak I had a hard time kneading cookie dough and my wrist keeps popping I have had Tendon Surgery for worn out tendons before and today both elbows are aching deep. Is this the kind of thing that starts the problems? It is cold today so my body might just be cold. Need to get advice and really is it better to stop the meds or keep going until Monday and talk to my Dr. I do not consider myself a whiner at all but I don't feel good and I am concerned. It kind of feels like a really achey flu bug.

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melaniebottorff 1 year ago

I was given Levaquin for a sinus infection 3 months ago. I was crippled after 3 days of a 5 day prescription. Ruptured tendons - torn muscles - could not walk back and leg muscles torn, ringing in my ears, rashes all over my face - for 1 month I was not able to do anything then I read about this drug on the internet and freaked out called my doctor again because she would not listen to me and the pharmacy would not listen. Finally Doctor listen and made notes.

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Wiitalks 1 year ago

i took Cipro for 4 days. 7 pills total. on the 4th day the joint in my jaw became so painful i could not do anything but lay there and cry. it's been 3 days since i stopped taking it and the pain is still present, i am praying it will go away because if it does not I don't know how i can live like this

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frogigit 1 year ago

I have another friend that is a nurse and she was told the side effects and against her better judgment and she took it and now has had to spend 100's of dollars for the Achilles tendon damage. That's how I found out what was wrong with me after suffering for several months with being unable to walk

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MeSoHarley 2 years ago

This is crazy ... the exact same thing happened to me after I was given 4 straight weeks of quinolones. I haven't worked in over a year and have been living on my savings after I got fired for cognitive difficulties. After almost two years, I finally found a doctor who believes there may be a link between my symptoms and the medicine. He is referring me to a toxicologist. Is this a waste of time? Is the damage evident on a cellular level? What about through hair analysis? Does anyone know?

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michaelemeryb 2 years ago

I took Levaquin in 2001 went through hell. I won't go into it too much. I have an identical twin brother and the deterioration of my health was evident by comparison. I became a borderline diabetic with periph neuropathy, numerous floaters, tinnitus, tremors, palpitations. Anyway, I'm about 50% better which is about as good as it's going to get. Now I had a tumor removed from my hip caused by a systemic infection. Im taking Augmentin although my physician may need to try diff antibx

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Adina x 3 years ago

I was prescribed Norfloxacin (Noroxin), which is probably one of the highest-risk fluoroquinolones. I started to have some symptoms after 3 pills, but thought they would go away eventually and took another 3 after that. It's been about 6 weeks since taking the last medication. The worst symptoms like extreme weakness and numbness in both of my legs and ankles are starting to go away, but I have a ligament sprain and loss of strength in my other leg.

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Lameeeee 3 years ago

i took it when i was 17 ( not supposed to be given to anyone under 18) and was in a wheelchair for a year from tendon damage. I reacted on the first day but my doctor hadn't read the side effects so she told me to get over it and keep taking it.

i'm out of the wheelchair now but it gave me a heart disorder called POTS and a peripheral neuropathy.

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WISHICOULDmakeAname 4 years ago

I was given Levaquin (3x) and Cipro. As a 23 year old with no injuries, I am suspicious of the the soreness in my right shoulder. There is no reason for me to exhibit symptoms of tendonitis. My husband was given Cipro and his Achilles tendons bother him, it looks like he may have a partial tear in one of them. After hearing your story and others, I am thankful that's all we've sustained from these poisonous pills. I couldn't imagine being in your position and I will be praying for you.

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Rob Oldfield UK 02/17/2013 I live in Stafford, UK

Greetings!

I write this with great difficulty and almost at the point of despair. I have never felt as unutterably ill as I am feeling at this moment. I am losing sensation in my arms and I am having difficult gripping objects. My legs feel disconnected from my control and I walk like a Thunderbird puppet. Every part of my body is screaming at me as waves of electrical shudders start in my brain and travel outwards. I have terrible head pressure with loud tinnitus. It feels like a high pressure hose has been inserted into the centre of my brain and that my consciousness is being squeezed to a narrow point. The brain fog is painful and impenetrable and I experience no respite; only unremitting Groundhog Day hell with one difference, each day is worse than the one before. I am not exaggerating. I cannot express in words adequately what I have experienced during the last three and a half years. Please bear with me.

In March of 2009 I experienced some pelvic pain. Before this point, I had never had any pain worth mentioning. I had never had muscle or joint pain of any description, I could swim and cycle, and more importantly, I had a sharp and clear mind that was able to teach Chemistry and I was in a plum job working part-time in a local grammar school. Such times are distant memories. I saw a Urologist who **diagnosed Non-Bacterial Prostatitis** and he prescribed 6-week course of CIPROFLAXACIN. I took the first tablet and two hours later my life changed completely. I experienced electrical brain zaps and other indescribable head sensations that stopped me in my tracks. I was at the kitchen sink thinking I was

having a fit. I knew something was wrong. Dreadfully wrong. I rang the GP Out-Of-Hours service who “advised” me to continue with the course of tablets. Foolishly I did. I should have trusted my own judgment but at that point, I still had faith in the medical profession. After all, I was a scientist! I returned to the sofa where I stayed virtually for two weeks. Brain fog descended which I cannot adequately describe. It was and still is like trying to think through an electrical mist and that somehow one is not able to think properly. Then came an awareness that something was going wrong throughout the whole body. I felt as if I had been systemically poisoned with strange pains developing everywhere. I went to see my GP who suggested that I discontinue the treatment. I did so, but of course, the damage had been done.

From then on, I rapidly descended into a hell from which I am trying to escape. Then began a sequence of visits to the A&E department. Each time I was informed that their checks revealed no abnormalities. LETHARGY AND STRESS WAS A POSSIBLE DIAGNOSIS. Take a valium!

I must be going mad.

In 2010, I underwent bilateral endarterectomy and in December 2010 I suffered a stroke – infarct in the right frontal lobe and haemorrhage in the right parietal lobe. A stroke brings with it its own physical and emotional challenges. Whilst in hospital I was given Zopiclone to help me to sleep. On discharge, it was added to my general prescription list and I took it for a year! My Neurologist, on discovering this was extremely concerned. He told me to stop taking it as it was affecting my mind and mood. I subsequently discovered that Z drugs are for very short-term treatment only. I discontinued and about 10 days I started to experience withdrawal symptoms. I was prescribed Diazepam. No withdrawal protocol was provided. After four months, I demanded that the GP get me off this stuff. I cannot believe the complacency and indifference displayed by whose vocation it is to care for the ill. I slowly withdrew, but the toll the benzo was having on my already cipro-damaged and sensitised body was becoming too much. I went cold turkey from 3mg a day on the 7th of December 2012. I am now going through withdrawal nightmare!

My damaged neuromuscular and CNS is exquisitely hyperexcited. I have insomnia of industrial proportions. I continue to have every symptom described by others who have been affected by fluoroquinolone toxicity. I feel medically abandoned, isolated, vulnerable and frightened. I don't recognise any part of my body or personality. I honestly don't recognise my FB profile picture. I have lost 15 years of memories. I know I used to teach but I cannot recall my subject. I have been transformed from a reasonably healthy and fit man to a mental and physical wreck.

Cipro has cost me a relationship, my livelihood, my sanity and my health, unwittingly aided by a medical profession whose attitude to adverse drug effects is one of complacency and indifference. Ignorance can be rectified, wilful ignorance is abuse!

My only sin was to have a misplaced faith in doctors.

It has been a descent into iatrogenic hell. A hell that even Dante could not have conceived!

To all who read this - THINK LONG AND HARD BEFORE TAKING FLUOROQUINOLONES!

The help and support from family and friends is what sustains me. Thank you!

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Bill from Australia 02/14/2013

Hello All, My name is Bill. I'm a 60yo who lives in Australia and a victim of cipro. I went to see my doctor and was prescribed ciproxin eardrops for an ear infection. They didn't seem to help my ear so went back to doctors and told him my shoulders were very sore and I had a strange rash on my back. He suggested I may have tendonitis. Days later I discovered the connection, cipro and shoulder pain, on the internet. By this time my shoulders were a real problem. One had gone all clunky and the other, my left, had waves of searing pain. Lying down was unbearable and sleep none existent. I told my doctor that I suspected cipro, and was told, very unlikely. I got a second opinion from another doctor and he treated me like a fool. There are no warnings on my medication at all and none from either doctor. 9 months later and it just gets worse, awful neck pain, twitching in my shoulder, constant fatigue, no sleep, pain that makes me vocalise at night, dry mouth, unable to lift arms above my shoulder etc. I was always active and enjoyed playing my keyboard but that is now limited. I can't believe I've found myself in this situation. I now sleep alone so as not to disturb my wife. We, who are poisoned, need to warn others and let it be known, DO NOT TAKE CIPRO.

My sympathy to all, Bill

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02/12/2013

Hello, my name is Elisabeth. It was the antibiotic Ciprofloxacin that destroyed my life. It made a cripple out of a previously healthy and active 32-year old woman who was prescribed it for a suspected bladder infection.

The true side effects of these antibiotics are only vaguely mentioned in the package insert, and there is absolutely no mention that these can be long term. The side effects that I am suffering from include nerve damage, rheumatoid arthritis-like and pins and needles feelings in my extremities, numbness, electro-shocks, burning and tingling sensations, neuropathy, sensitive and fragile skin, brain fog, loss of memory, insomnia, anxiety, sensitivity to cold temperatures, sensitivity to sounds and smells, phototoxicity, rashes, TMJ and hearing issues, tinnitus, dental pain, vertigo, floaters in my vision, difficulty swallowing, feelings of paralysis, and such pain in my joints, muscles and tendons that I walk around like an 82-year old woman. It causes me to suffer other physical restrictions, such as not being able to stand in place, drive for any length of time, walk for any distance or lift any objects.

It has been 15 months since taking the last pill, and I am still suffering from the debilitating side effects which limit me in every aspect of my life. I have developed extreme food intolerances and cannot eat out anymore. My career has taken a blow as I can no longer work full time. I have no strength to pursue a social life and am falling into isolation. I have spent tens of thousands on alternative treatments because conventional doctors cannot find anything wrong with me and do not attribute my condition to the use of the antibiotic at all. I have talked to so many deaf ears and have had to endure insults on my mental state.

Jerra Lilley after taking Cipro I developed the most terrible symptoms which have changed my life. Sadly and gladly a long time friend had it before me so she validated my illness when no one else understands. Exhaustion, sick feeling, thrush, waves of feeling like I am "dying" because of quick and sickening illness. My friend 13 mo into it and to Mayo twice where she was told she needs mental health treatment for starving herself. I lose 10 lbs a month because eating any gluten and sometimes anything at all can put me in bed ill for hours or days. This is a weird and hopeless feeling illness. We **are both nurses** and can't believe how we used to look as antibiotics as the cure all for most everything. Now we know it is poison.

March 5 at 4:28pm

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April 19, 2011

My name is Greg. My wife and I are college professors in California. She teaches biology; I teach philosophy. We have two sons. I'm sharing my story with you in so that you may know about this issue and help prevent people from suffering the same fate as I am. It's too late for thousands of us, but elevating this issue could help others.

In 2009 I was very healthy. I commuted to work by bicycle, ...worked out at the gym 2-3x per week, and I hiked Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, but I am typing this seated on the couch... the same position I've been in since March, 2010. Why? Because now virtually every tendon, ligament, and nerve in my body has been damaged by the antibiotic Cipro.

In February of 2010, I took a two week prescription for an antibiotic, Cipro (ciprofloxacin) for a suspected minor infection. One week later, I woke up and it felt like my ankles were on fire. Checking the bottle, I saw that tendonitis was a "black box" warning, so I immediately stopped using the drug and made an appointment with my doctor. I googled tendonitis treatments, and saw that I should immediately implement RICE: Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation. I called in sick to work and sat on the couch. By the time I saw my doctor a couple days later, the pain had spread to my feet, calves, hamstrings, shoulders and hands.

Being very athletic and fit, I was alarmed that my symptoms were spreading. I was used to injuries improving... why were things getting worse?

I googled Cipro side effects, and entered a new, scary world I had heretofore been blissfully ignorant of. I found blog after blog, review after review, forum after forum, and site after site of people who were suffering the same side effects. Many were in considerably worse shape than me and had been suffering for years; some had seen no improvement for over a decade.

I turned to my wife to help me sort through the maze of information. Her biology background could help me sort the wheat from the chaff. Could it really be true that so many people have been disabled by this drug? If so, why is still used? Will I ever get better? Is there any treatment? There are answers to some of these questions, but some are elusive.

From researching on respected sites such as PubMed, we found that Cipro is a member of a class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones (or "quinolones" or "FQs"); Cipro and Levaquin are two of the most popular. If you google them, you can immediately see how dangerous they are. Of 30 quinolones that have made it to market since the 1980s, 25 have either been removed from the US market or have

severely restricted use (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinolone#Generations>); that means 83% of these FQs have been banned, restricted, or denied approval by the FDA. By comparison, the good old penicillin antibiotic class has 16 members... not a single one has been withdrawn in over 50 years of use.

Since March 2010, my symptoms have not improved at all. Furthermore, I've developed new symptoms: I was referred to a neurologist who confirmed I now have peripheral neuropathy... yet another painful side effect of FQs; my neurologist said I was his third patient with FQ side effect damage. A MRI showed that my shoulders' tendons are chronically damaged and inflamed; bone spurring and inflammation of the bursa are also occurring. My rheumatologist (one of 5 specialists I've seen since taking Cipro) confirmed that my joint problems were not the result of any other disease or condition... all this damage is the result of known FQ side effects. **Finally, I've developed hypothyroidism.** I have no family history of any of these conditions and all my bloodwork up until taking Cipro had always not only been normal, but stellar (I've **always had very low cholesterol**, blood pressure, etc.).

My health has deteriorated to the point that I must leave my career of over 18 years. I now also have constant tinnitus (ear-ringing) and vision disturbances (necrosis of my left optic nerve) on top of debilitating joint and tendon pain over much of my body.

FQs should not be banned, but they should be limited to extreme cases where other antibiotics have failed and the patient is in grave danger. They should not be used as a first-line of attack; doing so is akin to using a bazooka to kill a mosquito. These drugs can cause a great deal of "collateral damage"... their use should be strictly curtailed.

My story is tragic, not just because it was preventable, but because it has happened to so many others and endangers many more every day. I hope that you can help others from suffering by informing the public of the dangers of FQs.

Thank you for your time.

-Greg Spooner, M.A.

Mensa Member # 100129751

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Karel Michele I wasn't warned, I was never even told that they were giving me Levaquin until I asked what was in my IV. I didn't have an allergic reaction. Three hours later I started having intense pain in my ankle that didn't go away. Even after complaining about it to several doctors and telling them that I had been given both Levaquin and Cipro right before the pain started, not one single doctor mentioned that it could be a tendon rupture. I had to deal with the pain and being unable to walk for 4 months before my mother in law told me that tendonitis was a side effect. I believe that I had a tendon rupture due to my inability to even put my foot down on the floor. I basically had to hop for several months. Three years later, my ankle is still not the same. Not to mention all the nerve pain I have dealt with for the last three years. I only had kidney stones, not an infection. Levaquin was only given as a precautionary measure. I really wish they had given me the option. I was only 31 at the time and basically healthy. I feel like I have aged 20 years since then.

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Steve Szymanski I was never warned that a antibiotics such as levaquin could do so much damage and permanent side effects the first time I took it I could not walk and I went to the foot Dr ask him if levaquin had anything to do with it his answer was absolutely not levaquin is safe then I took his word and took it again 2 years later which it practically crippled me for years

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Joseph Thomas Moore 1- I was NOT warned in any way. There was no instruction or warning booklet whatsoever detailing any possible side effects.

2- No culture, just a blanket prescription for a minor sinus infection

3- I had tendon degeneration, near complete immobilization, and pain.

4- This all happened while serving active duty as a Marine. I now suffer chronic stiffness and recurring pain, specifically in my ankles and wrists. Before this I had no tendon issues. I am now in the USMC reserves and a police academy, and my physical issues due to Levoquin play a constant inhibiting role in my activities as a Marine and future law enforcement officer.

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Barbara Lindsley 1) knew there could be reaction, 2) no cultures, but emergency situation - ruptured appendix, 3) I noticed that I was having a severe adverse reaction/nurses & doctors did not pick it up. I was a previous ICU Nurse, 4) I was very healthy before cipro

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Lisa Fry-Harris I had no serious health issues, was active. I was not warned, given a five day course 750 Levaquin for a sinus infection (which it didn't help)... after taking just five pills, I started feeling strange... just off.... then got a rash in my scalp ... two days later the most excruciating pain in both legs I have ever known ... the tendons along the bottoms of my feet tightened up and I couldn't walk or step down on my feet, but my legs hurt so bad I couldn't walk either ... then the digestive problems started, quit going to the bathroom... and the insomnia and dissociating/altered consciousness started, heart palpitations at night, waking up hallucinating from not breathing ...and not long after I started having problems with frozen shoulder. Now I am suffering from severe peripheral neuropathy... It has been four years and I am not working, spending all my money and efforts through holistic/alternative means to gain some of my life back. LEVAQUIN IS POISON.

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Michelle Banks I wasn't warned, had no cultures done, had adverse reactions, severe pain in my back, legs, arms, continue to have severe pain in my legs mostly, feels like my thighs will explode, was healthy, active, employed, now I am miserable, can't do much at all, nearly passed out when I went to pick up a few items at the grocery store, and I lost my job...

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Chaleis Ody Marcelino 1) NEVER 2) no, dr went as far as to say it might not even be a bacterial infection 3) had a majority of the reaction symptoms, many of which have stayed with me (neuropathy, frequent infection) nearly 2 yrs later 4) Very healthy before this, it has impacted my life more than I ever thought any medicine could

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In December 2012, the Dannelly family posed happily for their Christmas card photo blissfully unaware that it would be their last. One month later Levaquin changed their lives forever. Chris Dannelly (beloved husband and father), came down with a bad cold and went to see a doctor over the weekend. He was diagnosed with pneumonia and was given two pills of Levaquin. Unfortunately, he had an immediate adverse reaction to the fluoroquinolone antibiotics, and began experiencing excruciating limb pain.

Kathy Dannelly (Chris's wife) took him to see their family physician the following Monday. At that time his doctor saw no sign of pneumonia, but it was too late, he had already taken two pills of Levaquin unnecessarily. The following day he had to be rushed to the emergency room at the John's Creek, Georgia Emory location with increasing pain. They administered multiple doses of morphine to no avail...the pain never stopped.

Tragically, by Wednesday Chris coded and was charged 18 times in an attempt to save his life. He went into a coma and his death was officially called the following morning on January 17, 2013 at 8:15 am. After reviewing the autopsy report, doctors stated that "all signs point to Levaquin" as being the cause of death. Mr. Dannelly was survived by his loving wife Kathy of 12.5 years, his 7 year old son, and his 4 year old daughter. The last time his children saw him alive he was crying in a wheelchair in unbearable pain.

Chris was a healthy, active man in the prime of his life. He worked out five days per week, and enjoyed playing both indoor and outdoor soccer regularly. Within a matter of less than a week's time he went from being perfectly healthy, to losing his life...all because he took two little pills of Levaquin.

Kathy Dannelly, has courageously decided to share her husband's story in an attempt to educate the public about the risks involved with taking fluoroquinolone antibiotics. She feels that their family's

happily ever after was stolen from them, and she doesn't want to see this happen to any other families. Media sources may reach Mrs. Dannelly at katdan05@bellsouth.net . We would like to express our condolences to Kathy and their precious children. We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that your efforts to raise awareness are greatly appreciated, and that what happened to your husband will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

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Danette Lawrence Murchison So very sorry for your loss. I took levaquin in December 2012, mixed with a steroid shot for possible pneumonia. I am still suffering from muscle and tendon twitching and spasms and neuropathy in my calves. I feel fortunate that's the only problems. I've been told it will be chronic problems for the rest of my life. Why is this drug still on the market!!!!???

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Becky Clamp Prayers to the family. I feel fortunate to have only lost my Achilles from Levaquin.

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**Carol Lough Eli** I was devastated physically for years due to Levaquin and Cipro. The pain was excruciating like the worst body cramp you could ever imagine but relentless every time I moved. Getting up and down, walking, trying to bath. I ended up in a wheel chair and a walker. These drugs are not worth the risk of such debilitating ,devastating pain I have come a long way through stubborn determination and most of all prayer to God. I had NO help from the medical world, was treated like a nut even though my inflammation rates were extremely high in my body. They tested for and tried to blame Rhumatoid Arthritis to no avail ,tests showed that was not the cause . I felt helpless, rejected, dejected , disbelieved and at times prayed to die so the pain would stop. Even some members of my family seemed to have qualms as to my claims since their were no definite diagnoses. My Primary Physician scoffed at what I believed had caused my pain and suffering even refusing to read or even glance at reports I had on the dangers they had collected at the time. He is no longer my Physician which I should have made that decision much sooner. I have all the sympathy for this families great unnecessary loss and great empathy for those going through this horror as I type ., I understand, I have lived it and survived. Continue to fight, it can become much better even if not perfect. I continue to have some after effects but much improved, more than I once thought possible. God be with you and give you relief and hope for a better day. I know God was with me for I never took the first pain pill through it all, only because that's how frightened I have become of so called" medicine."

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Amy Travis My prayers go out to your family. I too thank you for sharing your experience. My husband took the Levaquin and Prednisone prescribed to him for a lung infection. I questioned the symptoms and was told by the nurse it could not possibly be the medicine. He has never been the same since taking it. He endures incredible pain all day every day. The drug needs to be taken off of the market. The FDA does not seem to be listening. I do not know what it is going to take to have them listen and take action. I would help in any way possible fighting to get it removed from the market.

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**Philip Keister** I'm next I was given 26/250 Mg of CIPRO by a negligent ER DOCTOR on 12/29/12 and I should have passed away on the same day because that's the day I ran 103 FEVER and my brain boiled for 3 straight days! For some reason I'm still here but have lost 65 lbs and my family is destroyed my wife and daughter have no dad I'm completely bedridden and have been to ER 17 times and thought last night was it for me!! Im now getting cyst all over my breast can't breath and my heart is not working right!!

I showed my wife and she is crying knowing just like she said last night to the doctot I'm going to have to bury my husband anytime!!

This is terrible and we must get this crap off thd market NOW!!

I was also given CIPRO without warning I had an allergy bracelet on at the time stating no antibiotics and I was also on Xanax which should never be given with a fluroquiolone !! Both of us had negligent doctors!!

Rip my friend and GOD BLESS YOUR BEAUTIFUL FAMILY !!!

Phil

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Hello to all on the wall of pain, I realized a few weeks ago that people did not know how my husband Dick Decent died. It's very hard for me to tell you, and I've had to come to terms with it my self. His life had become unbearable, he not only had very severe floxing but also had chronic prostatitis which gave him pain 24 hours a day on top of every thing else. Prostatitis was the reason he took the cipro in the first place, but it didn't work.

On the 19 September, Dick took his own life. I'm sorry to have to tell you this, please don't let this take hope away.

My fight against Bayer has not ended, for Dick and all of you. I'll post when I have something to tell you. Love and light. Sara. Xx

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