**Sean Schwartz** Think about yourself! If when you were healthy and saw a law firm commercial "have you suffered side effects of YAZ BIRTH CONTROL or know someone who has DIED from it." what did you do? I saw it and said hmmm that sux, flipped the channel and went about my day...

No one cares about us Mark... we are just 1000 people on here that had debilitating effects of an antibiotic big deal... there are thousands more but ununited and crippled with no power... who cares about us no one but our families and close friends...

No one realizes we had lives, we had dreams, hopes, aspirations, people that depended on us, people that we loved, things we wanted to do, things we had to do, things we needed to do.. we were people with real lives.. and now ...

Well I don’t know if I will ever walk again... I mean .. walk walk... My current DREAM right now is being able to drive myself to a convention in my professional industry, attend it, meet people and have a good time, I mean stand up walk through and walk back to my car...

and go home... pretty much pain free...

that seems like a fantasy ..... 

3 hours ago 

FINALLY some press. Greetings from Texas. Fluoroquinolones (Ciprofolxacin, to be exact) left me with permanent ringing and hissing in both my ears, tingling and twitching and pain in all four limbs, and constant waves of vertigo and dizziness. Just to give some perspective: I was an active athletic competitor in ELITE condition at 33, with a low blood pressure, and a resting heart rate of 54 beats a minute.......... I bring this up only to show that it has NOTHING to do with people being older or having "pre-existing conditions". This has, without question, been the toughest thing in my life. as you can read from all the comments, most doctors have NO clue what we’re talking about and are largely uneducated on the effects.

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**Karie Johnsonbaugh** Ok insomina really needs to pack its bags and leave me alone. I can not sleep and every time I start falling asleep I get pain and tremors almost like electric shock going thru my legs. I am so tired of this and literally just Tired. I am going to try to drink some chamomile tea and see if that helps. Does anyone have any suggestion on how to get to sleep. I can't keep this up of not sleeping. 

Karie Johnsonbaugh Thank you Lisa I hope so. I don't see how any of us can function like this. I feel as if my body is shutting down on me I just want to be normal-my normal at least. I am tired and I am hurting and I feel like I can't do this any more. This just sucks!!!

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**Rachel Rosenberg**
Recently met a girl who mentioned she had tendonitis in her foot and that it was incredibly painful. I asked how she got it and she said she literally woke up with it one morning. I asked had she ever taken cipro....and she said yes..several times.

I also overheard a conversation on the train about a lady whose achilles tendon had snapped, for no reason, as she was just walking along normally. They couldn't understand how that could happen....

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**Marty N Isa Fores**

Hi, my name is Isa. I'M 43 and previously a very active, athletic, energetic 4 years ago I took Avelox and in 24 hours I couldn't stand, walk, think clearly, felt like bugs crawling all over my legs, weak, etc..all drs. thought I had MS and more... all tests are normal. well, my 1st episode lasted 6 months, 2nd episode was a year later, then I was fine for 2 yrs, 3rd episode was this p...

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Nick Umphrey I almost lost my wife, my son almost lost his mother, many people almost lost their most caring friend. My family doesn't need a study for proof, we lived it.

March 22 at 3:04pm · 1

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Hi J,

I'm off to Beijing Monday. Somehow I don't feel right about the whole thing, just not too sure about the treatments. The doctors there will be dealing with my neuropathy issue, but the roots of our problems could be thyroid, DNA or immune system etc. Neuropathy is perhaps just one of the many symptoms. I'm really concerned the treatments would worsen my conditions.

How's your arm, is it getting better? Hopefully your MRI turns out negative next Tuesday. Please keep me posted.

I still haven't taken pain med for my neuropathy, tendon and joint pain. Just too scared of drugs post floxed. I'm considering gamma aminobutyric acid, I read that it helps insomnia, depression and it relaxes muscles.

The last few days have been terrible, pain wise. Really don't know how much longer I can deal with this. I went to the seafood market today and bought some fresh fish, clams and crabs as my mom's coming to dinner. I was so exhausted and in such severe pain that I almost broke down and cried in the streets, at that moment I realized life would never be the same again. Just 5 months ago I was a healthy happy person, now I'm almost a cripple.

Weekends have become meaningless. I live by the seaside, these days I spend hours every day watching speed boats, windsurfers, parachuters and of course birds; remember the pictures I sent you?
My eyes have become quite dry, I bought some eye drop w/o preservatives. Hopefully it helps.

J, when can we get out of this mess, it's just so devastating!

M

- Rachel Brummert
  Jen, I took the plunge and I now have an attorney. We are suing the makers of Cipro and Levaquin. I've had 4 tendon ruptures in 5 years. Three in my ankle and one on my arm (so far). I'm having surgery on 9/23 for my arm. We are also suing to make the makers of these drugs take these horrible drugs off the market. I am told it will be a 3 to 5 year ordeal but I do have a legitimate claim against them. These drugs left me with ruptured tendons, tendinitis, and permanent joint damage. I was on the fence about suing. Its not me. I think our society is too sue-happy and it pains me to do this. But after researching this more, I knew in my heart that I have to do this. Hoping for a good outcome.

- Rachel Brummert
  I just spoke to my attorney. For those who don't know, I am suing the makers of Cipro and Levaquin for the damage their drugs have done. I've had 4 surgeries for ruptured tendons in 5 years and I am looking at many years of surgeries as more tendons tear. My attorney said he might have to put me in the hands of someone else who is better equipped because the federal government gets involved in cas...

- Kelli Farrand Chan
  Is anybody aware of a connection between fluoroquinolines and ligament damage? After having been recently diagnosed with rotator cuff tendinitis, biceps tendinitis, and a tear in one rotator cuff tendon, today, I was told that my plantar fascia ligament is tearing away from my heel bone. So, now I'm in a boot and thinking about how much I don't believe in coincidences.

Rachel Brummert There is a connection and I've recently filed a lawsuit against the makers of Cipro and Levaquin. I've torn my achilles tendon 3 times and I've torn 2 tendons in my arm, for which I'm having surgery next week. These drugs cause tendonitis, tendon tears, and a host of other issues. I've had tendon surgery every year since 2006. I remember the boot well. ;-)

- Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic Toxicity (Cipro, Levaquin, Avelox, Floxin)
  Please do not hesitate to give them a call if you feel that you need to...that's what they're there for.

SuicideHotlines.com - When You Feel You Can't Go On -- Let Someone Know Your Pain.

suicidehotlines.com

What if the Hotline Phone Number for my local area is no good ??

Jen Wilcox All of my tendons were negatively affected to the point of being wheelchair and bed bound for years, but because I don't have a rupture no one wants my case either. However, I think that it's still worth contacting law firms because it lets them know how many people are suffering out there. I heard someone relay a message from their doctor saying that "those people online are just trying to get a class action law suit for money" (implying
that we are all liars). The thought that that is what people may think makes me want to throw up. For many of us there is no amount of money that could ever make up for what we've lost...what price do you put on your mobility, quality of life, loss of a career, inability to be an active parent, years worth of medical bills etc...the time lost is priceless and you can never get it back. How dare people assume that we would pretend to have had our lives ruined for a chance to maybe someday be part of a class action...as if we wouldn't rather be working hard and living our lives to the fullest if we had the opportunity...

Hi, My name is Mel and my husband's name is Bill. We are searching everywhere for advice and help and can't wait to read everyone's stories and cases and meet everyone.
A little bit about us..... In Nov 2010 my husband had a prostate infection and was given Cipro for 2 weeks. He immediately began having signs that we wished we would have known then. He was in bed for almost a week right after starting cipro, but we were advised by his dr that this was just the prostate infection. He was given another refill of cipro for 2 more weeks of November. After ending the 4 week dose in November, my husband went thru dec. still having pain in his hips, arm etc. In jan. of 2011, after the holidays, he called his physician again, whom on the phone assured him, they just were not getting the infection and gave him yet another 4 week dose of cipro. Yes 4 more weeks. By this point (after 15 years with our family physician), we sought out a 2nd opinion and were told it was a strong possibility my husband had advanced prostate cancer that might have spread to the bone. They rushed him in for testing, the tests came back perfect...AND THEN.. we were told it was the cipro after reviews of his records that same day. They immediately stopped the cipro. we never even knew the side effects, no one warned us, told us nothing. We had hopes though that this would be fixable. My husband for 1.5 years prior too an inhaled corticosteroid give by our same family physician. And then to top it all off 15 days after ending the Cipro, the new doctor put him on high dose Prednisone yet another corticosteroid. needless to say my husband is now in a wheelchair 3/4 of the day and a can for a few bits of the day. they had him on narcotics for pain, but have recently told us they cannot continue narcotics for long term pain, so they are taking him off it all and using cymbalta, which at this point is not working, but we are trying to remain hopeful. We have been told the knot in his elbow area, is a ruptured tendon, his arm goes numb a lot, we have been told the non stop swelling in both ankles is ruptured tendons that are in a sheath. He has shooting, jabbing, burning pains all day long even on narcotics that make him jump and grab. His shoulders, wrists, elbow area, hips, knees, ankle, calf areas and all are affected. He no longer can stand straight up. he was a healthy 42 year old dad to 5 prior to this happening, except allergies and one prostate infection. We have not had an mri at this point as my husband is self employed and we are w/o insurance and have not been able to cover that cost at this point. he is barely able to work and we are barely hanging on, not knowing how much longer we can hang on. we keep praying for God to show us our path to helping him. We have been seeking treatment since Feb 2011 for his diagnosed cipro reaction and no one seems to know much where we are from and they don't seem to want to do the research for it either. I have looked in all directions for help that we can afford.

Sorry to ramble on, Thanks for letting me vent also.

mel

I took 500mg x 2 a day of Cipro for 10 days total. I was fine until the day after I finished the Rx. I slowly started to have just about every ADR there is
over the next 2 years. Since then, I have leveled off and now just have all the main ADR's like neuropathy, tendinitis all over. Joint and muscle pain body wide. Insomnia that causes severe chronic fatigue. Memory problems. Severe heat intolerance and many other ADR's that are not as life altering. It has been 5+ long years with little change so far. If I physically exert myself more than normal, my body goes into a relapse and all my problems escalate for many days.

I was in good physical condition when I made the mistake of going to the Dr. for my first UTI at the age of 51. I'm 56 now and it seems like my life is over at this point. I can't do most of the things I used to do that brought me any joy. I can drive, but it's difficult, and when I get to my destination, I can barely walk, so what is the point?

All this was caused by taking Cipro for 10 days for a minor UTI, even though my Dr. denies to this day that it is impossible for Cipro to do this and I should see a shrink. I have spent a small fortune on Dr's and realize that none can help me. I'm in constant pain and can barely sleep. Living on pain meds is no way to live. The only reason I don't pull the plug is because it would break the heart of my wife of 24 years who's stood by me through all this hell, but living like this isn't living at all.

Has anyone ever recovered after a long period of time like 7-9 years? If there is hope of recovery, then I'll hang on but if this is the way it's going to be for the rest of my life, then I don't see the point. Life was heaven for me before this happened. Now it's hell.

Note added 10/19: This person lost the FQ fight and died on 10/17/11.

It has been five and a half years and I am not recovered to what I was, although it is generally tolerable, meaning I can have a 50% kind of a day. I still hurt but not like I did. I don't have the energy I had and if I exert myself (forget about overexert) then I pay for it for days going forward. The docs blame everything on anything else except the cipro. Except a shrink whom I sought out because I was willing to accept anything including my own craziness as a reason as long as I could get some relief. Her statement, what I am suffering from is real although the docs have no clue and they are the ones with the problems and state of denial. She has no solution other than for me to try to do the best I can and support whatever physical needs I have that are doable with minimal intervention. Thus I am taking Armour thyroid and more than my allopathic docs had put me on, I am taking methyl b12 and plenty of it, I am taking supplements that seem to be indicated for me (this would differ for everyone) and I am to try and be as active as I can handle without exacerbating what I am feeling at the time. And, keep my brain busy too. I LOVE my shrink.

Judy

• Michelin
Thank you for posting your letters. On the surface, it looks like the hospital administrator respected your complaint. I do not know your story; I do not know how severe your reaction was. I do hope you get some satisfactory resolution and feel better.

I am curious to know if you do get resolve. Let me take a minute to tell you my experience having been given Levaquin in a hospital along with prednisone and NSAIDs for pneumonia. On
arrival at ER I was mildly uncomfortable, uncrippled in any way, and not on any medications. Seven days later, I was crippled, lost 16 pounds, felt 100 years old. We all know what followed. I immediately called the hospital looking for an explanation. Told I just needed to rest - "bad infection". Every day the pains got worse - called back looking for answers - told the same. Trying to be brief - it was only after hounding the hospital for my records from the stay that I found an intelligent answer for my being in such pain and crippled. They ignored me after I found I had been given Levaquin against Black Box warnings along with "those" known drugs that intensify risks of tendon damages.

I have a ruptured/torn rotator cuff. I experienced the same "song and dance" from every new doctor that we all have to endure. I started contacting all watch health care agencies - the biggies - FDA, Medwatch first, then State and Federal agencies. I hope your state has a different method of dealing with ADR reports. Mine either denies the black box warnings or just refers me to another agency, who refers me back to the hospital who continues to deny. Each state they have no power - these are all board certified medical care givers telling me this. They are responsible for public safety and accreditation. Only the FDA would let me file an ADR complaint.

I am 16 months out, the pains are excruciating and can find no physician with knowledge of floxing and have been given steroid shot by Ortho which made things much worse. This is after I told him what happened to me and presented records and a packet on Levaquin ADRs.

What I would like to suggest is that we all petition these agencies as bogus. I hope your state is different than my state.

Thank you for sharing your letters - we all know it is a "big deal" - I had to stop reading our blogs as it hurts to see so many new victims being damaged by known risky drugs.

well after bills POP IN HIS ARm 8 days ago, his Dr finally called me today, he knows are financial situation., we have no insurance and bill is not eligible for disability or anything. Anyway, he told me he recommends that I take Bill to the ER tonight and pray they might do the MRI on his shoulder at least. he told me i cannot give bill more than the 2 percaset that he prescribed no matter how much pain bill is in because their goal is to take bill off all pain medications. This is a very frustrating time for us as I know it is for so many of you all. Just please pray for us tonight, pray they will do the MRI and Bill would get some help somehow. Bill told me 2 nights ago he doesn't know how much more he can take of this and that his faith in God is strong, but he just can't live like this anymore. Just please pray for us. We are leaving at 6pm, its an hour drive for us to get there.

I hurt every single day. I have been put on disability. I am a mother of five and can't do anything with my kids cuz it hurts to simply walk. My mental status is a nightmare. I have numbness and tingling shooting zapping pains in my legs and my face. I am a 40 year old woman who used to be able to roof houses, poor concrete, any hard labor, now i can barely walk up the stairs to do laundry. It has stolen my life, and now I just want to know what to do to get it back.

There is NO WAY a drug has more devastating side effects than FQ's. NO WAY. If my doctor had tried a sulfa drug with me before POISONING ME with Cipro I wouldn't be in crippled, lying in bed for the 800th
day in a row typing this right now. Unless you've been floxed you have NO IDEA. It'll make you WISH you were dead.

I have no doubt that these drugs are destroying many unsuspecting people's lives every day. They appear to be so insidious as to often inflict their worst damage long after the course of antibiotic has been concluded. I believe that largely because of the nature of these adverse reactions, many people never attribute their devastating health issues to the use of fluoroquinolones. Ten years ago, I was extremely athletic and in excellent overall health. Shortly after taking a ten-day course of Cipro prescribed for a minor GI problem, I began to experience some numbness and burning pain around my Achilles tendons, but had absolutely no reason to ever suspect that it could have been from an antibiotic. Several weeks later I began to develop other more serious issues as well, all within a very short period of time and for no apparent reason. These problems continued to persist and worsen until I was finally diagnosed as being permanently disabled due to severe neuromuscular issues. I now live my life in unbearable pain 24/7. I could ask why such dangerous drugs are still being prescribed for such minor problems, but I think I already know the answer to that.

I took cipro and was a healthy 28 year old in school for civil engineering at PSU not i can't leave my apartment .. There is no help for me or any one like me who has suffered this reaction. Some one has to help us PLEASE. it's been months and i can't walk or go to the store or school. it has completely ruined my life.

AVELOX DESTROYED MY LIFE AND HAS LEFT ME WITH A LIFE FILLED WITH SUFFERING EVERYDAY. THERE IS NO HOPE ANYMORE. 3 PILLS TOOK MY HEALTHY YOUNG BODY FROM ME. THE WORST MOST DEFEATING FEELING IS KNOWING THAT NO PROFESSIONALS WILL BELIEVE OR TREAT ME. MY LIFE HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED AFTER 3 DAYS OF AVELOX

I was thinking tonight what it would be like to make a documentary that followed a few "perfectly healthy patients who come into the system, get floxed and then go down this maze of hell until every penny gets sucked out of them as their lives go down the toilet". I don't know if anyone would actually sit thru it because it's so horrifying and dark.

I know a floxie by name only, who went into the ER with a ruptured Achilles tendon and the docs were like what the heck is this. He tells them about the FQ's causing it. Black Box tendon warnings actually came out that day. So they repair the rupture. Over the next month, he returns on numerous separate occasions with four or five more ruptures all occurring in different places as well as the re-ruptures of the reattached tendon and the docs were going "what the hell is going on here." All along he said to the same docs over and over it's the FQ's. He even came in with the official FDA package insert and they still didn't get it. I just cannot contemplate that scenario.

If one had never had tendon problems and now does because of the drug - and not because of another reason such as an athletic injury or something - then it is drug related. Someone who has never experienced tightening of tendons or ruptures cannot possibly begin to understand the pain and limitation that is involved in this kind of injury. I personally would not wish this on my worst enemy - Look at a map of a body and see how many tendons there are and what they
are attached to and then start tightening them and splitting them and see what happens to the structure of the whole body. Someone should make a digital picture of that and show it to the attys and juries. . . .

Have a good day everyone and God please bless us and help us cope with the damage that has been done to our bodies and give us a spirit of self-control over our minds so that those of us who suffer in mind as well can still think clearly in times of stress and distress.  AMEN

June

HI! I am new to being in a group, or even posting, so please bear with me.

I am a 35 year old mom of three. A ICU nurse, cardiac and neuro(the irony!)

On June 2, 2011 I went to a 60 min spin class and lifted weights for an hour (typical Wednesday). I came home, ate lunch, and took dose #2 of Avelox. I left my kids at home with the babysitter and left for a meeting. On my way to the meeting (about 40 min after taking Avelox) my entire body went limp. It was heavy, could barely move my arms, legs, like someone was sitting on me. It was hard to breathe. Not fast, but hard. I had to concentrate and make myself breathe. I was lightheaded, tachycardic, and it felt like someone was pushing my eyebrows downward, it was hard to keep my eyes open. Everything was numb and tingling. I called my husband freaking out. I was sure I was having a stroke. He stayed on the phone with me as I drove myself to the ER, which was about 10 min away. As I got out of the car, my knees were buckling under me. I seriously thought about crawling. I couldn't hold a pen to sign my own name.

Long story short, I had every test known and unknown to mankind done. I was in the hospital for a week, being in the PCU for three days. Everything was "normal", except my EMG. That was the most horrific thing ever. They tested my right side, and with every shock my entire body jerked. I felt like I had stuck my finger in my mouth and stuck it in a light socket. My doctors had no clue. Even after I gave them a 20 page report my husband got from Bayer stating all the possible ADRs. They didn't believe a atb could do this to me, and after 2 doses. They kept saying it would go away once I cleared all of it. Well......we all know that isn't true.

I am now almost 6 months out. I have peripheral neuropathy, I would say moderate to severe. It was pretty bad burning, numbness, tingling, pins and needles. But I started on a couple meds a few weeks ago - recc to me by a friend who is a radiation onc, he gives this to his pt's that have neuropathy from chemp- and Id say its prob 90% better, tolerable. I have fasciculations(not visible) in my legs and arms. I feel like Im shaking and revved up all the time. Therefore, if someone lightly touches me I jerk. Ahhh, the myoclonus. My enemy. I will come back to him. I have the tendonitis, it comes and goes. I feel like I have the flu most of the time, although that is getting better. It cycles. I have autonomic neuropathy. I get really hot, then really cold. Palpable to others. I cant regulate my body temp at all. Random tachycardia. Not just fast, but hard and fast. Daily headaches, migraines. Panic attacks. They are horrible. I have one every time I try to take medicine. My personality is different. Im kinda grumpy, and cant tolerate alot of stress. Im back to working out. Im about 75% at where I was before. I try to workout hard, but it's like I hit a ceiling and can't bust through. Its
very weird. I've always been athletic and work out 5-6x's a week.

The myoclonus. I've had it since the hospital. I would randomly jerk. A lot. After the EMG it was bad. With any type of test I jerk, a lot. Even just a pin prick test for my numbness. It's like my whole body gets revved up, and with any stimulation I jerk. Esp light stimulation. I don't jerk if its hard (like a kid jumping on me). Which comes to the most embarrassing part, but the part I really want to know. When I have sex, after climax, about 10-30 sec after I get a intense overwhelming flood of emotions and start crying hard uncontrollably. At the same time I go into full body jerking. Think of the worst grand mal seizure X 100. So, I'm crying and jerking uncontrollably for 10-30 minutes. And the worst part is, I'm aware the whole time. I don't black out like a seizure patient. My husband says I have a terrified look in my eyes. Well, I am. I can't control my own body, and trying to stop it makes it worse. After all of this stops, I'm exhausted, but that fasciculations are intense. I'm revved up again. And I will randomly jerk for 3-4 hours. Don't think about touching me. That's the hardest part. I can't touch or be touched. It's very isolating. I only posted this part because I have not seen anyone else with this problem. Or, they are too afraid to talk about it. All my neuro will say is that 1- it's not normal, and 2- its affecting my sympathetic and parasympathetic to which I replied "no shit!".

So, I posted this to find out two things. 1- anyone having problems with sex like me, and 2- has anyone had surgery after floxing? I have a hernia that is a ticking time bomb and I'm afraid to have anesthesia because we don't know what mechanism this is affecting my CNS.

My husband called Bayer to file a report, and asked to speak to a PharmD or someone who could help us figure out how this was affecting my body so I could get treatment. The lady on the phone said "sir, we don't know that, we are just the drug company".

Angie

I am still not doing that well. Same ADRS- Rib pain, light-headed, joint pain, very weak muscles.

5 months out since I took 14 CIPRO pills.

I notice my legs get so sore from the smallest activity and I was a guy before this that could run sub 5 min miles. Anyone have this head thing last this long? This is the worst ADR.

Also is this on target for the symptoms 5 months out still seem to be peaking?

Trent

I was hoping people would say no to that last question but the Flox Report seems to indicate that is quite common. I was floxed just 8 weeks ago and started tendon/ligament/joint pain immediately (after 3500mg of Cipro 7 pills) in feet, knees, elbows especially. Requiring crutches for a while due to plantar fascia tendon pain. Feet burned and throbbed for a couple of weeks and then subsided completely.
In the last week I got much better as far as the feet (tendon) were concerned and walked normally. All of a sudden yesterday it all came back with a vengeance. Now its achilles tendonitis and feet burning but most aggravating deep sharp shoulder pain radiating down the arm and what feels like ripped muscle in the back and around the ribs. Hard to sit, stand or anything else. Oddly, by far the worst on all these symptoms is the right side. Elbow tendonitis continues to be an aggravating issue.

So I guess it's common to have problems acutely during the floxing or immediately thereafter and then get better and cycle back again for months.

Jim

Paul's story is particularly a hard one for me to put up. I talked with Paul on the phone several times - and I could hear the desperation in his voice. Paul suffered many of the same symptoms I have so I can relate to the severe mental torture he was enduring. Paul went night after night without sleep - and I can tell you that alone is enough to drive a person off the edge. Fluoroquinolones can shut down sleep for years. The victim becomes a zombie living in a half world of reality. This is where Paul was spending his life. In mental agony (anxiety, panic), sensitive to foods and it a great deal of pain all over his body. To make matters worse - Paul was all alone. Paul was a loner by nature - but as I found out after his death - he was a very talented musician who wrote music for children. I came to find out Paul was a soft, gentle man who loved and lived a simple life until he was prescribed ONE LEVAQUIN for a prostate infection. The incredible agony he put up with all alone eventually drove Paul to suicide. With Paul’s story I’m going to put up the posts he made on the Yahoo Forum, Emails he sent to me and the thoughts of other’s. – Bob

I used to NEVER have to go to the doctor but now...everything hurts...from the physical to the mental, hallucinations, nightmares that I dare not mention to the same doctors that shrug their shoulders and say there is nothing wrong with you...I need not list the wide array of the problems, it would almost be endless because it seems like there is a new symptom appearing every day. Let’s just say it has affected me from top to bottom...from my head to my toes literally.

I fight anger every day, I fight depression every day, I cry every day... I can only describe this drug as chemical warfare, the battles that rage within me as my body struggles for survival, are some days too much to take. That is my life now, daily survival, no living....no enjoyment. I have to be careful how I walk, turn, go down a step, get out of the car, so as to not pull or pop anything. I wake up stiff and in pain every day. I have to wrap ace bandages around my ankles then put on ankle supports just to be able to walk and try to not have a tendon rupture. I cannot see at night to drive anymore.

It ANGERS me that I WAS NOT GIVEN A CHOICE!! I was not given a chance to make an educated decision as to take this or not to take this...I had faith in my doctor, I had trust in my doctor to KNOW everything he needed to before he prescribed medicine to me...boy did I get fooled...now I am paying dearly for it. UNNECESSARY LEVAQUIN VICTIM!
Lori McCandlish Interesting fact.....when I went to my second neuro he had no doubt that Levaquin did this to me because he had seen it as a doctor in the Gulf War! He said he saw more soldiers screwed up by Levaquin and Cipro than any other med. He continued to say....that most of the soldiers that then went home and shot their families were because of all the mental problems these meds caused. He also said, they were ordered not to discuss it by the government.

I don't know what to do with my time. Lost my job. Hard to do stuff I enjoy, so tired. My life had changed drastically in the space of a month. How do I act "normal"? Don't have the energy to. Haven't bathed or shaved in about a week. My condition occupies all my mental "time". Too tired to take care of myself- need to make phone calls to the dentist and file last years taxes, having trouble doing that. Can't concentrate on anything non-FQ related for very long. Watching lots of TV. Normally id be kind of analyzing movies since im a movie buff but why do that-

I used to be creative wanted to make movies normally id be trying to plan a little short film with my friends. THAT USED TO OCCUPY ALMOST ALL OF MY MENTAL TIME, but I cant now. Too tired to write/shoot anything.

It's like the old person and LIFESTYLE was wiped away- how do I act? Should I be trying to keep my old routine? I want ME back. I was happy go lucky, a positive thinker.

Anybody got stories of adjustment?

Hi Raymond.

Â

my husband Bill is 14 months into this.Â He is 43 now, at 42 he was healthy and a dad to 5 children...he had never been sick before a simple prostate infection.Â He is now in a wheel chair 3/4 of the day and using a cane other times.Â By the time we get ready (showered and dressed) he is completely exhausted and in so much pain.Â by the time we arrive where we were headed, we all feel guilty that we wanted him to come.Â We were an active family always doing fun things w/ the children.Â We still haven't adjusted and spend a lot of times in tears.Â The simplest trip to church on sunday mornings is too much for Bill.Â He is self employed and works at home, or else he would also have to quit his job.Â Our income has really been affected and we make it one day at a time now.Â We can't plan ahead...it never works.Â We have no health insurance for any of our family, so we can't afford to get Bill help.Â We did run up $10,000 in the beginning of this experience trying to find him help, with no help whatsoever.Â They are now
taking Bill of the pain medications because they say since we can't afford the needed tests for him, they cannot justify giving him any pain meds. So with each step down in pain meds, I watch a bigger piece of my husband disappear. I know he would rather not be here because of the pain. All he can do is work and TRY to support us all. He can no longer do all the things he used to do, he has lost himself too. He always says he wants his life/body back. I think i sit on the verge of tears every minute of my life now, but I have to keep strong (or try) for the kids and him...but I'm not always that good at it either.

We are trying to learn to readjust, we don't know how either. None of us can even touch Bill without it hurting him.

Your message touched me because we feel the same way. We tried the lawsuit avenue in hopes it would work so we could maybe get him further medical help and make things easier for him, but after 11 months w/ an attrry, they couldn't find exactly what they needed in his records to help us.

We are completely at a loss anymore.

Mel/Bill

=Hi Raymond,

Time can heal a lot of things but it also makes you accept the truth. Life is not fair and bad things happen all the time. (Lots of good things too) I am 3.5 years out and a lot better however not back to my life. Before all this I did Ironman triathlon. My husband still races and I go to most of his triathlons and at those times I still cry to myself. however time has healed my mind so those tears are not many. Not to say I am happy about it but what can I do. NOTHING! for the first years I cried every day as life dealt me a card and all of us here that just is not right. Those first years bed was my savior. Oh and a glass of red wine at the end of the day!

Change the way you do everything to stop you from injuring your body further.

I remember thinking about all the pain and injustice and longing to walk and garden and live not to mention do sport or converse without crying. It is a bad time! But hang in there. Many people have been where you are and although that is might not be comforting many have made it though however scarred they still are.

Well today I went off on my now ex neurologist. I got in his face and told him that perhaps the day would come when what has happened to me would happen to him or someone who he cared about and that maybe THEN he would believe me. Screw all of them. Screw every last medical doctor who thinks that there is no way that fluoroquinolones could cause this. They are a bunch of ignorant pharmaceutical industry brain washed bastards who haven't got a f-----clue. I had
given this presumably intelligent person all of the information that he needed to understand this "Fluoroquinolone Toxicity Syndrome" but he basically chalked me up to a nut case. Not only did he not believe that I had the symptoms that I was complaining about but he is the fifth doctor that I've seen who stated unequivocally that Levaquin could not have caused what I was complaining of. Yet, they have no other explanation. I am DONE with western medicine. DONE. These ignorant bastards only want to run tests to pay for their shiny new offices and diagnostic equipment. I'm not playing the game anymore. They can all kiss my crippled ass and I hope that they all burn in hell. I hope that all the pharmaceutical industry burns in hell, that all of the associated corrupt politicians and FDA bastards burn in hell and that everybody else remotely associated with causing this to us burns in hell. Did I leave any one out? If so I hope that they burn in hell too. Thanks for listening.

Chris

Thank you for your work Paul. I am a twice floxed Levaquin survivor and I do mean survivor. I won't go on about my experience but I will say that I work with people all over the world to assist them with recovery and management of this horrific experience. I have spent hours with people who thought suicide was the only option because the pain and suffering is so horrific and indescribable. No doctor will acknowledge us, no government official will assist, all we have are ourselves. We must continue and we must stop the poisoning of innocent people

I and many others have been reduced to living as virtual prisoners in our homes. I cannot work, let alone enjoy an active life, no more skiing, no more walks in the woods, no more peaceful nights sleep. Pain rules my life. Life has become a burden and not a joy. My body has been irreparably harmed and the FDA reports that only 10 percent of adverse reactions are reported to them, and with Levaquin, they have over 50,000 adverse events on file... so do the math, half a million U.S Citizens have been harmed by this drug and we do not know how many of those are permanent, but it's significant. One law firm has 2,600 cases to go to trial.... there would be hundreds of thousands of cases if the 2 year statute of limitations was ruled unfair. The SEC is protecting a company from going bankrupt

Note: Those numbers are for Levaquin only. Throw in Cipro. Avelox, and the other quinolones, and the number of people harmed increases substantially.

- Amy Moser
It's been nearly 2 years since my last dose of Cipro for a UTI. I have had over 13 torn tendons and 6 surgeries to repair them. I am still having ruptures. Has anyone of you with the tendon tears ever stopped rupturing tendons? I just would love some hope that this will eventually stop
Amy Moser Thank you so much you guys, it's nice to have others that know what your facing. I took Cipro for 14 days. I took 500mg 2x a day. Within 11 days I tore the ligament and damaged the cartilage in my knee so badly while trying on a swimsuit that I had to have a cadaver tendon to replace it. During the knee recovery I tore the lunotriquetral ligaments in both wrists, while wearing a cast for the wrist surgeries I dislocated my shoulder and caused some damage, then I tore my left achilles tendon literally 3 times on separate occasions, once while on my tiptoes reaching for toilet paper in my hall closet, once just walking and once getting up from a chair. From the strain of the walking boot for the achilles I developed tendonosis in my hip flexors and arthritis in my hips and pubic bone not to mention a small tear and tenosynovitis in my posterior tibialis tendon on my right foot. I tore my left elbow putting a gallon of milk in the fridge and just injured my right elbow scooting myself back on my bed. My body it just ticking time bombs. I have 3 small children and I'm only 29. I never dreamed this is what my life would be...I have had 11 MRI's in the last year and I take CoQ10, magnesium, glucosamine chondroitin, B6, B12, Vitamin D3, Selenium, Niacin, Fish Oil, probiotics and I try to eat well. I have no idea what else to do. I have spent so many hrs on the internet trying to find a cure. I am in full belief that God's healing is the only answer.

Amy Moser Thank you Mohaamad. Not really. I was healthy and I hiked up mountains with one of my in a back carrier right before this. I was fine and planning for summer vacation with my family. A week into the antibiotic I felt really achy and called my doc about it. She said it was probably from the bladder infection and would go away after I finished the course of antibiotic and she prescribed and additional week to my 5 day course. Come to find out that achiness is the first indicator of joint damage. I wish my doc or I would have picked up on it them. The ugly piece to this story is once she found out was causing all the ruptures she literally dumped me as a patient. She told me there was no reason to do MRI's anymore because I kept getting hurt so much she didn't think it would make a difference.

Amy Moser I have already had a tendon biopsy it showed moderate synovitis and vascular proliferation and I can't remember the other one but it had to do with tendonosis. I have pain in all of my large joints and tingling in my toes. I have been to 3 rheumatologists ruling out Ehlers Danlos, Lupus, Rheumatoid arthritis, and have had a lot of testing that ruled out any underlying rheumatological condition. The only abnormal test result was very low vitamin D that I have been taking supplements for now for almost 10 months. The only things I have to show the connection is, the pharmacy records showing when I took Cipro and all of the tendon tears and MRI's coupled with it making my already hypothyroid much worse and I had to have the dose doubled before it got back up to an acceptable level.

Amy Moser I wish it had been only her, unfortunately I have a hand surgeon who just recently told me that I need to learn to live with just the faculties I have left and that even if I have another hand or wrist tear she would no longer operate on me. She told me this through a receptionist over the phone after my wrist repair broke. I am now stuck looking for a new hand surgeon while the wrist repair she did in July just gave way. I was pretty upset on that one. I was not rude to her because that is not how I operate but I did tell her that I could not understand why she would suddenly refuse to treat me especially to monitor her own work.

Ron Renkawitz My prescribing GP dropped me also even though he agrees the cipro is what destroyed me. I think he just couldn't stand apologizing anymore, and he knew there was
nothing he could do to help me. He did tell me he would no longer prescribe FQ's unless it was a extremely serious situation. Minor victory, that may save others from this.

- Amy Moser I did check into prolotherapy, Mayo Clinic, Oxford Journals and the Tendonitis website all state that it is a new treatment and from their medical standpoint they saw no benefit with the prolotherapy shots over the control group injections. Mayo clinic's website said that they are not behind it because it has yet to show any marked medical benefit. Prolotherapy is a solution meant to stimulate irritation and healing. The problem in Quinolone cases is that if the DNA mitochondrial repair cells are damaged, you can inject these tendons causing them to break down and re-heal, but they will STILL only re-heal up to the previously damaged state because the repair cells are what are damaged. I have been trying to research stem cells but so far have not even come across anywhere near me that actually does that. The other thing is they use your own stem cells, problem being there if THOSE are already damaged it's still not going to do a better job repairing than the damage that is already in there. If you can find any promising research please tell me I’d be very happy to try anything that sounded promising. I'll warn you that a lot of homeopathic docs will try to "Detox" you and it is pointless. The meds are out of your system within 24hrs, what I'm dealing with at this point is the damage it caused to the tendons and repair cells while it was in my system in April of 2010.

- Amy Moser Ron, I actually think that is exactly why mine dropped me. She would comment every time I was injured again how horrible it was not to know how to fix it, couple that with the fact that for the first few months she accused my wonderful husband of beating me because she couldn't understand why I was getting hurt so badly doing such mundane tasks. Once she figured out she was the one who prescribed it she freaked out. I think she was afraid of a lawsuit. The thing is, I'm not mad at the doctors for prescribing it, I'm mad at the FDA. Citizen Vox sued them in 2008 and won the part of the lawsuit stating that they would have to put the warnings in the pharmaceutical handout but they were not required to notify all of the prescribing physicians. So now you have a bunch of physicians prescribing the thunder out of the Flouroquinolones family and they don't understand why their patients are falling apart. The FDA states at least 30% of people taking these drugs are reporting these reactions but they think the incidence of these complications is much higher because the doctors and the patients aren't making the connections between having taken the Quinolone and having the joint damage. The FDA is just disgusting. Each person who dodges a quinolone bullet is one more life still fully intact. We need to be vocal. I tell everyone I know. I can't stand the thought of people I love getting hurt so badly with no relief in sight.

- Amy Moser Thanks Jenny, that would be great. This is the first time I've ever posted on here. I have been reading the posts for awhile but I have never felt like going through the story until tonight. I just get burned out sometimes and don't want to go through it all, but I HATE when you see people trying so many things you've already tried and you know it's not going to work. I know how much time and money and hope is dashed when it doesn't help. I just felt like I wanted to post and see if anyone had tried anything I hadn't yet, and actually made some headway. Thank you so much for the sounding board.

- Amy Moser I was a hiking Mommy carrying my baby on my back up mountains in Phoenix. I played volleyball throughout school and I was very active. May 2010 after an almost 3 week course of Cipro I ruptured my left knee requiring a cadaver tendon replacement, shortly after ruptured the lunotriquetral ligaments in both of my wrists requiring surgical repair on both
wrists. dislocated my left shoulder, tore my left achilles tendon 2 separate times over the course of 4 months, MRI's confirm widespread tendonosis all over my body, tore tricep tendons in both arms and now dislocated my jaw. I'm 6 joint surgeries in the last 2 years. I pray everyday that God will heal me so I can care for my family by myself again. Until that day, I pray God gives me strength to endure whatever may come.

- That is horrible.. I had two ruptures in my shoulder. I am sure I am more tears but can't afford to find out and I have learned how to deal with it. Good Luck I hope you have read under resources it seem to be lack of vitamins. It was for me anyway. Quins attack everything even the good things that help our body heal.

- Tami Lucas

- Becky Clamp I used to run 5 miles a day, do the elliptical machine, and roller blade, spin class. 8 months ago had 4 Levaquin pills, trashed my Achilles tendons. Wrist hurt whenever drug cycles in body. Was hard to walk, had to buy new car as couldn't use a clutch. I became a swimmer. Can finally kick in pool, do some stationary bike and walk up and down stairs. Hoping for full recovery in time.

- My dear friend J, I don't know what to say.

- There aren't much muscles left in my legs, and the pain...

- I know I can't go on like this but...

- I'm sorry that I contacted you in the first place and now you're worried about me. I'm so sorry!

- I hope I'll be able to speak later.

- Carolyn Saylor-Loof So sad to read everyone's suffering. For me, I was given antibiotic (gatifloxacin) EYE DROPS, and after 2 days on them my legs turned into what felt like lead-heavy, useless rubber and I could barely walk, so on day 3 I quit the drops, and after a week my legs seemed normal again (as did the rest of me because those drops put me in a comatic stupor), and I was able to resume my daily 6-8 mile run. I could've run much more, if I wanted; in other words, my legs were strong and no where near being pushed to their limit. BUT, 3 months after the eye drops, while running, I got a sudden pain in a tendon in my leg. Within days the whole leg was a MESS (ie, it seemed like every tendon, muscle ligament was freaking out - nothing tore though, luckily) and I had to go on crutches for 6 weeks. If I hadn't been a runner and was sedentary, this wouldn't have happened, BUT 6 months after the eye drops, I got hit with many more flox symptoms, including total, rather sudden, weakness of
forearms/wrists/hands, matching weakness in bottom of legs/ankles/feet, neuropathies, panic attacks, lots of eye floaters, generally feeling like I was going to die - it was horrible. I had, what the Flox Report calls a Delayed Onset of flox symptoms. By the way, magnesium supps made my symptoms worse, so be aware that it isn't good for everyone. The severity of everything slowly calmed, and after a few months i started slow jogging a little. Now, 18 months after those eye drops, i can run (but never fast) 3-4 miles, 3 times a week, my walking is limited - both walking and running strain my legs/feet. My forearms/wrists/hands are still somewhat weak - left side of body much weaker than right side (ex: can't open jars, snap fingers, hard to turn key in the door). All arm, leg and back muscles are weakened, I'm afraid permanently. Thankfully, no more panic attacks and I feel like myself, which is the most important

Joanne Gilliam McFarland I lifted weights, did cadio boot camp stuff and have a 2nd degree black belt in taekowndo. Now I don't even walk.

Paul Craven I was working out 5-6 days a week lifting but my main goal was stairmaster. I suppose thats why it hit my hips and legs first. It got so i couldn't walk only a few holes on the golf course. My hips and legs would start aching so bad and then also I would get so fatigued I couldn't finish the course. I finally had to quit all together. The other major symptom I had was muscle twitches. My legs twitch all the time. They never stop. It looks like someone is turning an electric switch on and off on them. It shortly took over my whole body after about my 4th floxing

Piper Nascarella I was a dive instructor for 12 years and I cannot dive anymore. The weight of the gear, the walking with the gear and the pressure underwater is just too painful. I now do paperwork in an office:(

Julie Larah Moore My brother was in the marines and got floxed right before he finished his time there. He was out of commission for months. Thank goodness he made it through, because he almost had to leave

Susan Simmons I was a runner, kayaker, fly-fisher, sailor, biker and avid gardener. I'm unable to do any of these things and the artwork that I've done the majority of my life is painful. Looking forward to wellness....someday

Marty N Isa Fores

Yes I was an athlete played college level volleyball did bike races hiked a lot canoe paddled ran 3 x a week kickboxing weightlifting skied u name it. I did it. I love to exercise. But now with legs buzzing and unable to walk for months at a time I'll be happy when I can walk the beach again. Avelox was my nitemare pill. 8 small pills that have destroyed my life for 5 years on and off. I'm now in a remission state. So looking forward to getting strong again soon.
Greg Spooner I was a hiker, kayaker, weight-lifter, dog-walker (2 miles a day), and biker. I can still bike a little, but that's it; everything else is gone. I do have a couple pics of me hiking, but I don't think I have pics of anything else.

Billie Johnson Collegiate rugby and volleyball. Mountain and road biking, softball, slow jogging with golden retrievers, weight lifting, basketball. I suppose since the floxing in 2005, I'd be considered a "success" story. I'm still bitter and question every ache and pain and tendon twinge, but I'm back to almost every physical activity I used to do. It was a dark, dark few years, though.

I am another victim of a Fluoroquinolone, just like the author's wife. Take this book very seriously, because what doctors tell you is 'rare' is in fact extremely common. Levaquin (one of the fluoroquinolones) caused me to develop Fibromyalgia. For a time I had to use a walker. I was in constant pain for nearly one full year. Although the doctors say this is 'rare', three other women in my office of 30 people also developed Fibromyalgia after taking one of these pills. In my realm of family and friends, I have discovered nine others...each and every single one had a doctor telling them they did not know the cause of their pains. Each and every single one took a Fluoroquinolone pill before getting these terrible pains that never go away. No doctor will admit to it, and so therefore it goes unreported, and continues to falsely be considered a 'rare event'. There is a group of victims on yahoo that number more than 1600 from all over the world. Some have died or have family members who have died from these pills. Others are permanently in wheel chairs or confined to bed from the pain. The pain these pills can cause is not like anything else you have ever felt. It's new and extraordinarily tortuous. I have been suffering for almost two years because of ten Levaquin pills. I am only in my 30s and before Levaquin was in great health. The information in this book is worth reading, because the Fluoroquinolones are the most prescribed antibiotic out there, and chances are you will be handed a prescription for one. You need to know the truth about these pills before you even take just one. The first pill nearly ruptured my eyes! The third pill decayed my ankle. The list goes on forever, even long after I stopped the last pill, and you can never be entirely the same after you're affected.

I am the victim of the US pharmaceutical industry. One year ago I was prescribed six days worth of Ciprofloxin (an antibiotic manufactured by Bayer) for a minor urinary infection. I have been crippled ever since. Unable to walk, unable to work, unable to live on my own now, I have had my entire life utterly DESTROYED. I was never warned that those 12 little pills that were supposed to HELP me could cripple every system in my body. There is literally not ONE part of my body that has not been affected by that poison. My eyesight is badly damaged, my tendons and joints are SHOT (I'm only 30 but now have the joints of a 100 year old), my ears ring non-stop, my skin now breaks out terribly, I have developed circulatory problems, EVEN MY TEETH HURT! I am disgusted that I live in a country where unsuspecting patients can be legally crippled and killed by professionals they TRUST and
there's absolutely no legal recourse. Death to Bayer Pharmaceuticals! May they burn in hell for eternity.

- **Julie Porsche Horst**
  I talked to the FDA today about my cipro and levaquin poisoning. After giving her some of my 30 symptoms she said this is getting to be a very big problem and something they are monitoring very closely. She asked me to make sure my doctor sends in a Medwatch form and she told me to do the same. The more of us that tells our story, maybe it will prevent others from being hurt.

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**Another terrible Levaquin tragedy – A child Levaquin victim.**

📅 October 8th, 2008  ⚬ admin

If there is one Levaquin (Levofloxacin) story that sticks in my mind the most it is probably this one. Reproduced with permission from FQvictims.org

*A 16 Year Old’s Story as written by her sister*

**The Story of a child Levaquin Victim**

In March of 2000, my little sister, who was 16 years old, developed difficulty hearing in her right ear. Her ear, nose, and throat specialist ordered a CAT scan. The radiologist told her ENT doctor that she had a sinus infection. Apparently the ENT specialist didn’t bother to read the CAT scan and he concurred with the radiologist. We later found out after consultation with another doctor that a wisdom tooth had punctured the large right sinus cavity and she never had an infection. This fact should have been obvious to the radiologist and the ENT if he actually read the CAT scan.

Despite the misdiagnosis, this would not have been a problem if the ENT had prescribed a safe antibiotic for my sister. Instead he prescribed 500 mg of Levaquin once a day. He did this despite the numerous pediatric warnings that are clearly stated in bold and large font in the Physician’s Desk Reference. According to Ortho-McNeil, the maker of Levaquin, Levaquin is not supposed to be prescribed to anyone under the age of eighteen. The prescription was filled at a local Walgreens pharmacy, which provides Medi-Spam Corporation’s package inserts for patients. For some reason, Medi-Spam did not put the pediatric warning on their profiles even though the company that Osco uses does. Consequently, my family was not told by my sister’s doctors or the pharmacy that this medication was dangerous to children.

After my sister took the fifth Levaquin pill, it was if a bomb went off in her body. She collapsed at school and had to be half carried out of the building to my mother and me. She said every joint in her body ached; she was dizzy and her skin was raw with a rash. Her right wrist was red and swollen. My mother called the doctor. He refused to talk to her, but instead had the nurse tell my mother that my sister was having a “little allergic reaction” to the Levaquin and to give her a lot of water and Benadryl-which we did. The next day my sister could not get out of bed. All of her joints ached and she was in so much pain that she was curled up in the fetal position. She cried out when we opened the shade in her bedroom. She could not tolerate any light because she said it seemed as if someone was shining a high powered spotlight in her face every time she opened her eyes. She had a terrible headache, the rash persisted, she was sick to her stomach and her
hands shook so much that it was difficult for her to even hold a glass of water. My mother kept calling the doctor and he refused to talk to her. After several calls, his nurse hollered at my mother and said: “I told you the doctor said it would take a couple of days for the medication to get out of her body.” The nurse then called in a prescription for Biaxin, which my mother had told the ENT my sister could take safely. But it was too late.

Since the doctor was refusing help, I turned to the internet to see if anyone else had reported the same symptoms as my sister. As it turned out, it is not just children who have experienced the strange mix of symptoms that my sister experienced. We were shocked to find out that Levaquin (and indeed, all fluoroquinolones) has a questionable safety record for people of all ages. Seven fluoroquinolones have been pulled off the market in the United States because of severe adverse drug reactions like my sister’s, and many more have been pulled from worldwide markets, or their use has been restricted to life or death situations because of severe adverse drug reactions, including death due to heart and renal failure. Levaquin has not yet been pulled from the market, but because of my sister’s symptoms and the experiences of the other tens of thousands of people who I found out experienced the same symptoms, I believe it should be.

There was no doubt in our minds that my sister was not experiencing a mere allergic reaction. Allergic reactions are transient occurrences, but her symptoms showed no signs of clearing up, and in fact, they were worsening by the day. Within days of her initial symptoms, her Achilles tendons and rotator cuffs were at the point of rupturing. We had to rush her to the emergency room. The emergency room doctor looked at her chart and said: “who the hell is the moron who prescribed this medication?” It is never supposed to be given to anyone under the age of 18.” The doctor went on to say that anytime someone of any age came to the emergency room with an unexplained tendon problem, she always asked if they had been prescribed a fluoroquinolone antibacterial, and she found quite often, they had been.

My sister was now in a boot cast and a sling in a desperate attempt to stabilize her tendons by immobilizing them. She could not tolerate natural or artificial light. She began to experience other nervous system symptoms, such as anxiety, hallucinogenic dreams, and, most frighteningly, a sudden unexplained compulsion to commit suicide. Please know that my sister had never experienced any psychiatric or psychological disturbances in her life, but that fluoroquinolones are known to induce psychological side effects, and suicide is now finally listed as a possible side effect of fluoroquinolone use. In the weeks that followed, my family took my sister to a series of doctors who ruled out arthritis, lupus, MS, and a host of other diseases. It always came back to the fact that she was fine before she took the Levaquin. When we realized that no doctor in Illinois could help her we took her to Georgetown University to see a man named Dr. David Flockhart. He said she had a severe adverse drug reaction to Levaquin and that it should never be prescribed to anyone under the age of 18, although he had seen many adult patients who experienced the same thing as my sister did. He said there is no cure for her condition- that the medication had penetrated her bones, her tendons, her muscles and her nerves. Levaquin is a negatively charged particle that tends to bind to positively charged calcium and magnesium found in the bones and soft tissue. He also said the Levaquin had blocked the GABA receptors in her brain, causing vision disturbances, tremors, rashes, and psychological effects. He said it would take five to six years for this medication to “grow” out of her body and then she would be left with the damage it had done to her bones, nerves, and soft tissues.
We began to deal with the fact that our lives were going to be changed forever. My sister went from being a healthy, active, extremely artistic 16 year old whose talent has helped her community and whose artwork has won awards to a teenager who couldn’t even lift a gallon of milk because of the pain in her hands and shoulders and the threat of a rotator cuff rupture. She went from being a proficient martial artist who was one step away from a black belt in Tae Kwon Do to a teenager forced to use wheelchair because her knees and ankles hurt so badly because the cartilage and tendons could spontaneously rupture at any moment. She went from being a happy-go-lucky teenager with fourteen years of experience playing the piano to a world-weary young adult who learned all too well the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

For weeks and even months at a time, my sister has been unable to perform even the simplest functions, such as carrying schoolbooks or walking to class because of the pain, swelling, and the threat of tendon rupture in her limbs. She has experienced spontaneous tearing of the cartilage in her ribcage, including an unprovoked rupture while in her wheelchair on the way to one of her high school classes. For the initial 4 months of the adverse reaction to Levaquin, she had to wear black sunglasses to block out all the light because she was so sensitive to light. Her vision returned to normal, but then some months later she lost her peripheral vision. It returned a few months later. Sometimes her symptoms are localized to areas of her body like her arms or feet, and sometimes they affect her entire body.

It has been 4 years now. My sister has been in 29 orthopedic casts for her arms and legs in order to prevent tendon ruptures. Her hands still shake. Periodically her vision is affected. Pain is now a daily factor in her life- as she says, it’s not a question of when she is in pain, it is a question of how much pain she’s in every day. Typically, changes in the barometric pressure influence how much pain she’s in. She is our “walking weather person” because the pain becomes horrible for her when the weather changes. Periodically the tendonitis in her peroneal tendons and Achilles tendons flare up so badly that she cannot walk. The tendons in her arms, wrists, hands, fingers, and shoulders still flair up, limiting her ability to do common daily tasks such as writing and typing. There are still days when the pain is so great she cannot get out of bed.

She has to use a wheelchair scooter on her college campus because she cannot walk long distances. She cannot open doors for herself and can only attend classes in buildings that are accessible not only in that they have elevators and ramps but buttons to open doors as well. During her freshman year, the plantar fascia in her right foot ruptured while she was sleeping. The cartilage in her right knee began to flake off, which causes immense pain. She was my maid of honor in my wedding last year, but we were afraid up until the last minute that she would not be able to attend because her doctor raised the possibility of needing emergency surgery. As it was, she had to wear a full-leg cast on her leg under her dress and had surgery not long after my wedding.

What is most devastating, however, is that my sister is and has always been a talented artist. When she was a small child, she figured out how to draw three dimensional objects on her own. Her artwork has won awards both in and out of school since she was in grammar school. Her work was used by the Roselle police office for its DARE program when she was 11 years old. Her animation has been used by the College of Dupage as a teaching tool since she was 12. She began designing logos and artwork for area companies and schools in junior high and continues
even today, as much as she is able to. She has consistently been described by every art teacher she has ever had as being a creative genius. Levaquin has stolen away her ability to use her god-given talents in career and volunteer activities. She can only draw for a few minutes or an hour a day, and even then she experiences pain when she does so. She had planned to be an animation artist since she saw her first Disney cartoon. Now, her dreams have been shattered. Her artwork is no less brilliant, but she simply cannot use her gifts to the extent that she otherwise would have been able to.

As you can tell, Levaquin has destroyed my sister’s life. It has taken away her health, career, and her ability to have a normal life. In fact, our whole family has been devastated by this senseless tragedy. My family was never warned that Levaquin could do this. Indeed, most doctors are not aware of the devastating, permanent adverse drug reactions caused by Levaquin and other fluoroquinolones, or if they know, they do not understand the seriousness of the situation. Some, like my sister’s ENT, flatly refuse to acknowledge the possibility of adverse drug reactions at all, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. The fact that the warnings required by the Food and Drug Administration are not adequate and do not acknowledge the severity and permanence of the adverse drug reactions does not help.

My mother has talked to the FDA numerous times. The last time, a woman in Sally Singer’s office said to my mother: ”There are so many angry people out there because of Levaquin. Some day we are going to have to do something about this drug.” When my mother asked when, she refused to answer my mother. The British have given Levaquin the Black Triangle—the equivalent of saying that a drug is under investigation to possibly be pulled from the market because of the severity of adverse drug reactions. Why has the FDA not placed Levaquin and other fluoroquinolones under such scrutiny.

On behalf of my sister, my mother is one of the tens of thousands who have filed adverse drug reaction reports with the FDA, yet she has never once received a phone call or email to follow up with her. No one at the FDA seems to be concerned that a child has had the rest of her life ruined because of a few pills.

The FDA and the drug companies feel that side effects like my sister’s are not considered “serious” because she is not dead. It doesn’t matter that my sister and all the other fluoroquinolone victims have had their lives ruined and are forced to live in constant pain. - Story told on 1/1/05

Please warn your friends and family about the crippling effects of Levaquin and other quinolones.

Doreta Houck Gail I am so sorry about all you have been through,It has been a long hard road for my dad as well, he was a very active 65 year old who restored vintage cars and came and went more than I did..lol..but when he took only one pill of Avelox,20 mins or so later he was in the floor..his BP dropped to 40/20 something and lost all control of his bodily functions..he ended up in the hospital for a while..he had a heart attack and now his health has declined..he has trouble walking and doing as he used to,now he he has developed diabetes which they cant seem to get under control, he
James Riviere

Hi there, i am a 55 yr old male from New Zealand and have Inexplicably suffered for the last 4 years with various ailments from 2 torn rotator cuffs, arthritis in many parts of my body, torn calf muscles, tendon ruptures and crippling arthritis to my left hand and thumb, prior to 2008 i was quite fit and had an outdoor job, i have recently been put on a 2 week course of ciprofloxacin for a lung infection, after the second day i woke up early in the morning and every part of my body that had problems had inflamed and i had to roll on to the floor as both my arms were stuffed and couldn't raise them above my waist and was in so much pain ,i rang my doctor next day but he was in Australia for 10 days, so i started looking on the web for reactions to this drug and saw numerous forums with thousands of people with similar problems, it wasn't till i phoned my doctors secretary and asked if i had been prescribed this before and she said yes a 2 week course in Jan 2008 for a Pseudomonas ear infection ,well the alarm bells went of as i realized all these problems started 1 month after taking them, so i think that this drug had to responsible for my problems as i was quite fit prior to 2008 and had no family history of arthritis, ligament ,muscle and tendon problems, i finally got with my doctor who had never heard of these side effects and did not believe these symptoms possible until i showed him on the internet and also CNN News Videos stating that it had been Blackboxed, i am from Scotland and also lived in the States and Canada,is it worth my while pursuing this by writing to the drug company or should i take some other path?would appreciate any suggestions..Thanks

In February 2006 I woke one morning thinking I was dying. I shook. I couldn't sleep. I had brain fog. I couldn't tolerate light or sound. My whole body hurt. I lay curled up on my bed for over a month expecting to die any moment. I was so weak I had to have help just getting to the bathroom. The tendons in my body swelled and tore. This was only the beginning. For nine months I had no clue about what was happening to me or why as I continued to get worse. $20,000 in tests said I was in perfect health. I was labeled as a hypochondriac. Every medication, therapy, supplement and treatment made me worse. I nearly gave up, deciding I was insane and needed to be institutionalized. I was minutes away from committing myself when my wife, Jeanie, and close friends, talked me out of it. What was wrong with me??

THE ANSWER:

CIPRO

A VERY POPULAR QUINOLONE FAMILY ANTIBIOTIC
THAT THOUSANDS ARE SUFFERING FROM RIGHT NOW AND DON'T KNOW IT
BECAUSE THE SYMPTOMS OFTEN DON'T SHOW UP UNTIL WEEKS AFTER IT'S TAKEN

OTHER NAMES FOR QUINOLONES:
AVELOX - LEVOQUIN - TEQUIN - FLOXIN and over 30 others

Many have been removed from the market, but profit hungry drug companies and a powerless FDA continue to mislead the public and put you and your family in danger.

THERE IS NO CURE
THERE IS NO CURE
THERE IS NO CURE

Oct 17, 2006
In the past 18 months I have been prescribed, and taken, 8 cycles of Cipro for recurring UTI's. I now have ruptured tendons and ligaments in my left elbow, left flank, outer aspect of left foot, right knee and right ankle. I am in constant pain. I have never experienced prior instances of ligament and tendon rupture. Is there a class action suit pending with such complaints as a part of the suit? Is Utah included in the suit?

I found 1 law firm which you can easily google who took down my info & said they might call.(I'm in California.) I took Cipro in December of '07 and I have been suffering from tendon ruptures in my left hamstring ever since. I have had severe pain standing, walking, etc. much of the time & after going to physical therapy to address this problem a couple of weeks ago, I somehow injured my left knee. Now, I can hardly walk at times and have chronic pain. Prior to the Cipro, I
worked out 5 times a week-- in aerobics classes, with weights or playing squash. Please keep in touch

**Jul 8, 2008**
I have not been able to walk properly since the end of January when I took Cipro eye drops. It has been rough. How do I join a class action suit?

I took Cipro in March as well, and my ring finger on my left hand started as a trigger finger issue, but since then is constantly swollen and disfigured looking. I can NOT bend it but about halfway. If I lay my hand straight...all my fingers lay normal with the exception of THAT finger. The knuckle is raised and will not flatten.

**Jul 9, 2008**
I took Levaquin in April (a form of cipro) because I was on the verge of pneumonia. The very next day, I could not move my arms and my ankles hurt. I thought maybe I had pulled some muscles due to coughing. I finally had to go back to the Dr, in June and was told I have tendinitis. If I don’t mow or vacuum or use the trimmers or walk or fold clothes or sweep, the things you HAVE to do in everyday life, they don’t hurt so bad, but if I do, I can barely move my arms

**Jul 19, 2008**

**Bones wrote:**
You all sound like a bunch of lazy whiner’s trying to sue people who were trying to help your screwed-up lives.
Considering the fact that I’m not suing anyone...My life “wasn’t screwed up” till Dr’s started experimenting with drugs to see if they would help my breathing problem. Since Cipro, I am borderline disabled and before Cipro came into my life in 2002, I had a very active lifestyle and now I’m lucky to walk from the chair to the front door with no help. I can't breathe, stand, or sit for very long. I have such ringing in my ears I could put words to the tone. Right now my left rotor cuff is so swollen and sore I could scream and I'm lucky to get 3-4 hrs. sleep without waking in pain. When I eat, it takes me twice as long as anyone else because I have a tendency to gag/choke. So yea, I have a screwed up life now...but before Cipro, I had a very active life Thank You!

I was a healthy 42 year old male who took Levaquin for a sinus infection. The same day as the Black Box Warning was issued; I was having my third tendon reattachment surgery. I have to wait at least 6 weeks before I can undergo yet a fourth tendon rupture reattachment. At least it
takes my mind of the Achilles Tendinopathy, joint pains, headaches, uncontrolled muscle twitching etc. I consider myself one of the lucky ones since so far it has not affected my kidneys, liver, heart, eyes and other side effects that many are dealing with from this class of drugs. I would urge a real journalist to take the time and look at the real number of cases. The Fda numbers are misleading. The clinical data coming from other counties are showing much higher rates of tendon ruptures and other life threatening side effects.

Jul 20, 2008
My husband was once a strong & healthy man. I watched him become disabled after taking Cipro & CiproXR. He had a total of 6 ruptures that also involved muscle. Some tore completely away or apart & are still torn. These ruptures & avulsions occurred in both arms & legs. There were other adverse reactions also like tendonitis, abnormal swelling of the bottom left corner of his lip, rash with tiny sores around the ankles, rash that appeared in patches over the body that were bigger sores with dark centers, involuntary jerking movements of his arms & legs especially trying to rest, severe headaches & migraines, back spasms, rectal bleeding, severe depression, neuropathies in legs & arms, muscle & joint pain & others. Some people are unaware of how long after taking these medicines that ruptures can occur. For my husband, ruptures started occurring around 11 months both times he took them.

Sep 3, 2008
I was prescribed Cipro for 60 days for a prostrate infection. At that time I had been working out with moderate running and weightlifting for 2 hours per session times four days per week. The pharmacist did not advise me to stop working out and quit running. About 2-3 months after first taking the drug, I developed tendinitis in my right hamstring and right elbow and forearm. I had never had an issue like this before in my life. I was 47 at the time. I visited the Dr. and was advised that it would take up to 12 months to heal. Well, it has been over 12 months and I have had repeated incidents with tendonitis and now my right calf is a problem. I can't run any more. After a few minutes it feels like I pulled my calf muscle. I could not figure out why I am having these problems until I stumbled across this issue on line. I have also had a much more sensitive GI tract since the Cipro. I am very very angry. It seems I could have been treated with a different medication but the Dr. did not know there was a problem ..... I would like to join a law suit as well.

Oct 28, 2008
I told my doctor I did not want to take Cipro because of the torn tendon issue and he told me to take it for only a week. I did and 2 weeks later I had a torn tendon in my right thigh. It has been
numb ever since. I have seen a specialist who says nothing can be done. Is it too late to join a class action law suit? I am in Pennsylvania.

Nov 4, 2008
I would like to know if Myrna or anyone found there is a class action suit in Utah as I took Cipro, stopped taking it because it made all my joints so stiff, and months later it is getting progressively worse. I have tingling in my extremeties and my rotator cuff especially hurts.

Nov 8, 2008
Back in March of 2008 I took Cipro for a UTI. 3 days after starting the antibiotic I was chased up 3 flights of stairs (I work in psychiatry) and injured my right Achilles tendon. A month later my left Achilles tendon swelled up. In retrospect I think my injury had little to do with being chased and everything to do with the antibiotic. My ankles have not improved despite physio, rest, etc. 8 months later. I can no longer run or be as active as I once was, even walking is difficult for me. I have had to change to a less active desk job and I have pain every day, some days worse than others. I'm mortified that as a nurse I knew nothing of this particular side effect and neither does my GP or other health care professionals I talk to. The prescribing specialist could only offer an "Oh my God.." when he saw my ankles and write Cipro down as an allergy on my chart.

Feb 25, 2009
I was prescribed Cipro more than once and never warned about any dangers of this drug. I suffered ruptured arch-bearing tendons in both feet. The arch-bearing tendons are the foundations of the foot and since then my foot structure has been deteriorating, I am now considered disabled since I have so much trouble walking. This drug ruined my life. If anyone thinks any of these people are trying to get money for nothing, they are total fools. They better learn the word "compassion" and hope something like this never happens to them. I too would like to know if there is a class-action suit against the manufacturers of cipro that I can get in on. I think any drug that cripples and disables people owes that person something.

Mar 7, 2009
I was prescribed Cipro for a UTI in December 08. I had taken the drug before and didn't have any side effects. After a couple days on the drug, I experienced some shoulder pain. I thought maybe I had slept on it wrong. The pain increased during the week along with upset stomach, aches and pains in all joints and general feeling of anxiousness. I stopped taking the drug after 7 days. It's been over two months now and my shoulder pain is not constant, but if I move wrong, the pain is excruciating, running all the way down to my fingers, and I am completely incapacitated till the pain subsides (about a minute). I'm wondering if this will ever go away, and
worried about what may crop up in the future. After reading about others, I feel very fortunate to only have the problems I have. But none of us should have any of these problems. Some of these postings are more than two years old. Why is this drug still being prescribed?

Mar 9, 2012
I am also a victim of Cipro which I was given for cellulitis. My knee cartilage and bone degenerated and I am in severe pain and unable to walk. It seems as though we are all helpless victims of this lethal drug. We need to unite and find an aggressive lawyer that can get us the compensation we all deserve

Wednesday Mar 28
I have had fibromyalgia for six years. I had bad cystitis that wouldn't go away before it, and that's why the doctor gave it to me, after having tried other antibiotics. I had spoken to a woman who has a site on the internet and believes she has ways of treating cystitis that are less dangerous. She told me at the time never to take cipro because it had crippled her, I didn't take too much notice at the time, but my doctor gave it to me and I took it for a week. It has affected my body severely and I am always tired and pain. previously I have been fit, Today I can't drive because it hurts if I turn my head. I used to climb mountains and roller skate. Now there are days when I can't even climb up the stairs. My GP still isn't sure that the Cipro did it, and I was diagnosed as fibromyalgia by a hospital consultant six years ago, who didn't think it was Cipro either. I do.

Joanne Corwin
Good morning,

I want to file a complaint against the FDA and need to know to whom your agency reports.

In April 2011, I was poisoned by the prescription antibiotic, the fluoroquinolone Cipro. I was prescribed this "medication" for an uncomplicated, routine Urinary Tract Infection. After only 6 days of 250mg x 2 daily, I was suddenly hit with a host of symptoms. Within two hours I went from being a healthy, 49 year-old adult to someone mutilated from head to toe, fighting for my life. My life has changed irreversibly. I have medical documentation of partial paralysis, head to toe tendon damage, hearing loss, heart murmur, kidney and liver damage, erythema multiforme, extreme food allergies,..... The list of carnage goes on for a mile. I was initially told that these symptoms, especially appearing collectively, was "rare". While this did little to help me, at least I thought I was just unlucky. Imagine my horror when I found that, even using conservative numbers, hundreds and hundreds of people are poisoned from fluoroquinolones each year with
the same devastating and mangling result I endure. Not only are there countless scores of FaceBook, YouTube, and blogs on the internet from people with crippling stories almost exactly like mine (if not wose), there are many, many people I have met within just my local area that are suffering in this same way. And there is ample documentation to show that the FDA knows that these effects appear syndromically. The FDA knows the devastation caused by fluoroquinolones. Yet, the FDA allows these "medications" to be used in a flippantly casual manner by unknowing doctors with only a black box warning of possible tendon damage. Possible tendon damage implies a bad case of tennis elbow or, at worst, a rupture of the Achilles tendon. Nothing can explain my terror of suddenly having my body turned inside out and of having every tendon in my body as fragile as wet tissue paper. Nothing can explain the heartache of suddenly having to be fed like a baby by one's eight year-old child or being unable to use the bathroom without the assistance of others. Although I have made improvements in the last seven months my chance of complete recovery, based upon expert information, is almost non-existent. For a system so universally broken it is virtually impossible to heal a system so universally broken, especially because this was a poisoning and not caused by trauma or disease.

My second complaint is that MedWatch, as it currently stands, does not work as an accurate reporting system. It requires doctors to report on their own errors. If physicians recognized the error, it is doubtful they would have made it in the first place. My PCP (who is a conscientious physician but just did not have enough information on the effects of fluoroquinolones) reported to MedWatch that I was "recovered" only about 10 weeks out from the onset of my initial symptoms because I was no longer using a wheelchair full-time for ambulation. He simply could not believe that the plethora of symptoms I suddenly had could be caused by a drug. I have to agree that it is completely unbelievable that anything so dangerous would be out on the market. I could not have fathomed such flagrant disregard for the health and safety of the public if I had not had this nightmare thrust upon me and experienced it myself. The subsequent specialists I now see: cardiologist, nephrologist, endocrinologist, immunologist, orthopedist, GI specialist, neurologist, physical therapist, etc., feel they cannot report my symptoms to MedWatch because I was not under their care at the time of the poisoning and, so, cannot confirm the cause and effect.

My third complaint is that there is no established first-aid protocol for those poisoned by fluoroquinolones. When I was poisoned, we called the Poison Control Center. They confirmed that the effects I was experiencing were caused by the Cipro but when we asked what to do they said, “Well, if you rupture, go to the emergency room.” This was not helpful. My doctor also prescribed NSAIDs. Not only should physicians be informed that NSAIDS and steroids are contraindicated, there should be intervention the includes the immediate administration of antacids or something to bind the remaining fluoroquinolone in an attempt to reduce damage.
I cannot stand to have the life of one more person sacrificed to fluoroquinolones. They are too dangerous to be prescribed in a routine manner. They should only be used as a life or limb intervention.

Please send me the immediate contacts and Congressional Committees to whom you report so that I may file a complaint. Ultimately, as a public agency, the FDA is responsible and culpable to the public. The FDA has failed in regard to safety and well-being. This needs to be documented, at very least. I want this to be documented. I am only one voice, but sometimes, as with the Holocaust, no one listens until there is a collective cry of many voices. That time is already here in regard to fluoroquinolones. Please listen.

I await your response.

In February of 2010, I took a two week prescription for an antibiotic, Cipro 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: 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 body-wide.

I googled Cipro side effects, and entered a new, scary world I had heretofore been 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.

From researching on respected sites such as PubMed, I 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.

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.

Greg Spooner
Cypress, CA

Matt Quiona
Levaquin/Cipro is way overused and the devastating side effects are rarely acknowledged by doctors. I was given Levaquin only to find out I did not even need an antibiotic. I was not sick, but doctor suspected she saw something in chest x-ray.

After a few days on the pill my legs/arms were burning, chest pain and when i stepped out of bed my Achilles was so tight. my doctor took me off the med the next day. I then experienced tendonitis in my bicep, forearm, rotator cuff tightness. weakness in my legs/ tightness in muscles.

few weeks later my legs started getting stabbing pain, plantar fascia pain, Achilles tendon pain, muscle twitching in legs, heart palpitations, dry eyes, pain in eyes. It was all downhill from there.

13 months later, 20+ doctors, and 10k in medical bills, my feet have collapsed, posterior tibial tendonitis, loose knee cap, rotator cuff issues, dry eyes, floaters in vision, tinnitus, snapping of shoulders, snapping in knees, grinding/crunching in knees, weak hip, snapping in left hip, damage to spine.

Most doctors I went to didn't even know about tendon black box warnings, nerve damage it can cause. They all denied it. I went from being healthy and running/exercising w/ a personal trainer day before I took Levaquin to not being able to walk properly, lift my arms just 5 days later. It's been 13 months and I haven't returned to the gym for a full workout, and can't walk for more than a few minutes without pain.
I will eventually require foot reconstruction surgeries in both feet, and not sure what other surgeries or medical issues I will have due to this in the long term. But for now, I am still unable to carry on even a normal life.

I strongly recommend you do not take this medicine unless it's last resort and you've tried everything else.

The FDA / JNJ / Bayer has failed to inform doctors and patients about the medicine they are taking and it's permanent side effects. It does not happen to everyone, but even if you have take it before without any issues it can happen to you next time you take it. I had taken Levaquin years ago without any issues, and this time around it destroyed my body.

Matt Quiona
Most doctors are unaware of even the tendon issues caused by Levaquin and when all the sudden your tendons start giving out and you go complain to the doctors, they say it's something else. It can't be the Levaquin. You have been able to walk for 30 years of your life, and few days after Levaquin your legs are destroyed. Or your eyes all the sudden are damaged and the ophthalmologist will tell you, it's normal b/c you have this or this and it happens to many people.

And when you put it all together they try to say you have a disease but nothing comes back positives and nothing makes sense but the doctors know one thing, it wasn't Levaquin even though they don't even know the side effects listed on the package.

JNJ as a company has done a great job of down playing the side effects, but this story shows that tendon rupture or tendonitis is just the start of it. Most people will wish they had just tendonitis or a small tendon rupture and they moved on with their lives but that's not the case.

Matt Quiona
one more thing, research study was released that Levaquin can cause retina detachment. many have complained about this to FDA and JNJ. And now that a research article is out stating it, is JNJ going to inform doctors and put it on their side effects list.

If a person that will have a retina detachment does not get help quickly when they have symptoms they can go blind. does JNJ think this is important to let doctors / patients know?

so far, NO!

Cherry Mendez
My facebook page isn't letting me post on the wall nobody can see it how do i fix this?? i'll post here Can someone please tell me what is the list for the fluoroquinolone ear drops and eye
drops to avoid? I was taking ofloxacin ear drops and my ears started ringing like crazy and have
not stopped, got a massive headache, started getting joint pain in my knees and hands plus
tingly electrical shocks!!!??? I only seem to find people that took it in pill form but can these
cause long term damage too? is there anyone who has reacted with either ear or eye drops
here?

Yesterday at 7:09am
Betsy Hamill I went to the gym regularly; did weight training, jogging (3 miles), pilates & aerobics
classes. Also snow skiing, sailing, boating, swimming. I can no longer do any of that bc of nerve
damage to my legs and other FQ side effects. I am 5 yrs out and have difficulty walking.

Melinda Massung Shobe So, just a point to be made...In 2008 I took Cipro. My health was
destroyed within a matter of months to the point of not being able to walk fo0r several years
along with multitudes of other problems with my body!!! My sister was actually the one who
discovered that the problem was most likely the Cipro with all of her research. Found out that
there was a national lawsuit going on for several years concerning all the people suffering from
the same problems as me. The lawsuit was settled with a "black box warning" & Cipro was left
on the market as a "CURE"!!! Since the year 2008, I myself have talked to HUNDREDS of
people & more just in my small town alone that have had problems with this drug & Levaquin.
Now, if this is going on all over the world with so many MILLIONS of people being destroyed by
these drugs then why are these drugs left on the market to continue destroying peoples lives &
JUST being talked about????? ??????????????????????? Through natural medicines at the cost of
severe credit card debt, I am now walking again & trying to rebuild my life. The last 4 years I
have gone from zero debt to severe, llost of my business I worked so hard to create but most
important, lost 4 years of time to LIVE LIFE to the most horrible pain I have ever lived!!! I am
one who was fortunate enough to have my life back but what about all the millions suffering who
have no idea as to why??? The FDA??? The government will probably come looking for me for
shooting off my mouth but, what a joke....They know this is poison they are giving us but do you
really think the government will give up the BILLIONS of DOLLARS they make off of this to stop
our suffering?????

David Corbett FQs are slow damaging drugs a lot of the time, i took Cipro at low dose on/off but
for a long time 16 months in all. i took 2 tabs a week of 250mgs. my life went downhill because
of different health issues you could say i aged 30 yrs after stopping the drug and that was 2 and
half yrs ago.from moments of limping round on what felt like fractured ankle and knee tendons,
to stomach and heart discomfort, brain fog it was terrible time, oh and i lost my full time job
thanks to bayer and irresponsible Drs, a well paid job as well, all gone, relationship under strain
because of all this. but as of 2day im gettin there and feel much better some things improved.
Cipro stole a few yrs off my life.
Brenda Ellsworth ONE Levaquin and the pain set in an hour later.

Richard Bonnie Jacobus Only one dose and I got a tendon tear! Getting a copy of my previous rx list would explain another issue that I had after taking these drugs. My new doctor who prescribes these, actually looked it up in a medical book and read what I said as true.

Carolyn Saylor-Loof So sad to read everyone's suffering. For me, I was given antibiotic (gatifloxacin) EYE DROPS, and after 2 days on them my legs turned into what felt like lead-heavy, useless rubber and I could barely walk, so on day 3 I quit the drops, and after a week my legs seemed normal again (as did the rest of me because those drops put me in a comatic stupor), and I was able to resume my daily 6-8 mile run. I could've run much more, if I wanted; in other words, my legs were strong and no where near being pushed to their limit. BUT, 3 months after the eye drops, while running, I got a sudden pain in a tendon in my leg. Within days the whole leg was a MESS (ie, it seemed like every tendon, muscle ligament was freaking out - nothing tore though, luckily) and I had to go on crutches for 6 weeks. If I hadn't been a runner and was sedentary, this wouldn't have happened, BUT 6 months after the eye drops, I got hit with many more flox symptoms, including total, rather sudden, weakness of forearms/wrists/hands, matching weakness in bottom of legs/ankles/feet, neuropathies, panic attacks, lots of eye floaters, generally feeling like I was going to die - it was horrible. I had, what the Flox Report calls a Delayed Onset of flox symptoms. By the way, magnesium supps made my symptoms worse, so be aware that it isn't good for everyone. The severity of everything slowly calmed, and after a few months I started slow jogging a little. Now, 18 months after those eye drops, I can run (but never fast) 3-4 miles, 3 times a week, my walking is limited - both walking and running strain my legs/feet. My forearms/wrists/hands are still somewhat weak - left side of body much weaker than right side (ex: can't open jars, snap fingers, hard to turn key in the door). All arm, leg and back muscles are weakened, I'm afraid permanently. Thankfully, no more panic attacks and I feel like myself, which is the most important.

May 25 at 4:21am

Geoff Robinson Yep crossfit for four years prior - mostly heavy crossfit football. Exercise was the biggest thing in my life, everything else revolved around it. 18 months on - Cipro damaged my left elbow joint and right shoulder, they grind now, but this isn't a problem. The intra cranial pressure/head pain which began post Cipro stops me getting any consistent training started. Exercise makes you healthier, but FQ's clearly can turn exercise into further hell.

June 2 at 4:32am

David Corbett Geoff iv never been into the keep fit regime but i had a very physical job before large doses of Cipro destroyed that. i worked 5/6 days a week always on the go lifting this, walking there, climbing ladders and much more, i noticed near the end of the Cipro course i wasnt feeling right i had brainfog,felt tired, sickly, different parts of my body were paining me shooting pains in my eyes,head, neck,loss of strength was slowly starting. then one at work
early morning i was walking and i kid u not my left Achilles felt like it was snapping. i limped round for 3 days and on that 3rd day my left knee tendon give up on me at work. i had to go home and was off work for a week. i didn’t get much better over the months following but i lost my job. the head pressure i had that to. the amount of Cipro i took really screwed me. it almost shut down my body and i ended up in A/E 3 times in 12 month b’cus of this drug

June 2 at 5:11am

Jc Johnson Friday I finished a Levaquin prescription for a sinus infection, Saturday my left Achilles tendon spontaneously ruptured while rising from a chair. NOW they tell me that Levaquin weakens the tendons and to avoid exercise and strenuous physical activity while taking it. Also reading all of the adverse side effects of the drug and am really angry. So who knows about legal processes that have been going on with this?

Virginia Dare Kaplan Go online and search Levaquin Litagation= you will find several law firms who are handling ruptures-----but please do it now- pull your medical records and contact an attorney, There is a huge class action suit in Minnesota with 6000 persons who have ruptures. No rupture, no case at this point in time. Thousands of us are living a painful life.

Michelin Anderson I was accepted by the MN MDL last fall after sending my records for a ruptured shoulder(MRI confirmed) treated in hosp. with lev and every drug listed NOT to be given concomitant(May, 2010) Received a letter end of May 2012 from said MDL - they are no longer continuing the case since they are finding juries seem to think the Black Box Warning covers JJ/McNeil(Black Boxed in 2008). I was not consulted or even told what drug given to me - had to dig, beg for my records as I had no problems prior to treatment(not on any medication prior) - was released crippled, 16 pounds lighter in excruciating pain......contacted Mal practice attorney - they spent six months combing my records, it came down to the final hurdle - their 'medical expert' said Lev does not cause shoulder ruptures, cough cough. That excuse was very telling and the timing very suspect. Long story, not repeating again. The wagons have been circled for a very long time, Black Box warning has no meaning to any profession - The AMA knows, the state Medical Boards know, the legal profession knows, the FDA knows, the Hospital accreditation organizations know, the Dept. of Heath knows, my govmt representatives know, Pharmacists know. I am not any better - it's like I hit a wall going 100 miles an hour. From a life to no life. I have about 30 pounds of records from each of the fore mentioned 'health care' organizations. I don't post anymore - these are not positive facts and I am disgusted and I feel so badly when I read of new victims. Then there are the innocents who have not experienced and really can't accept what has happened. It has now been two years - pain has lessened somewhat but I can't walk as I used to, have no energy whatsoever. I have no known ailments to explain my difficulty - still get purple marks on my arms, numbness, and on and on. Not one medical professional will discuss Levaquin, nor Black Box warning, nor my records from that
hospital stay. This has been my experience - don't stop searching. Don't stop telling others what our experience has been. Not taking it seems to be the best safety measure. Good luck to those who say they have to take it.

Bonnie Lynch I lie in bed mesmerized by the fan that circles above me, silently asking God if I am dying, it is a question I have asked many times, since becoming ill with Levaquin Toxicity. It has been four long years since I have been whole and complete, here I am at 2 pm Tuesday afternoon, trying to move beyond the chronic pain that has become my bedfellow and faithful companion. There are days I am so sick that I plead with God to “just take me”. Four years of being in and out of the hospital every two months takes its toll. Hearing the countless physicians tell me “We cannot find anything wrong” softened my once strong constitution. If it were not for the physical manifestations of my illnesses, I would probably go insane. If the source of my illness cannot be found, why do I suffer from constant cold burning and tingling sensations in my legs, why do my legs continually swell with fluid, to the point I have to be hospitalized to reduce the inflammation, why do I suffer from constant heart arrhythmia, and have a stroke in my right eye that can deem me blind at any given moment (Central Artery & Vein Occlusion)? Because most doctors have no clue how to treat Levaquin Toxicity or even, acknowledge it. You are made to feel the hypochondriac, and forced to seek answers for yourself in how to cure your medical conditions.

My 79 year old mother (who now takes care of me) knocks softly at the door and peeks in, “Bon are you ok?, Can I get you anything?”, I tell her I am fine, that I will come out to the kitchen in a few minutes. I close my eyes and convince myself there is hope in this day, that things will be better if I just get moving, but the only thing that is truly pulling me up is the sadness I see in my mother’s eyes, I will be damned if I will let this drug take my mother down too. Therefore, I get up and fight through another day, and will continue to fight, until I am well again, and sharing my success story with you.

18 hours ago ·

Jc Johnson

And they clearly are not reporting the amount of ruptures that occur - the day I walked out of my ortho’s office in this boot and was diagnosed with this rupture I ran into two people who had the same experience taking Levaquin – one’s mother had both Achilles tendons rupture from taking levaquin. They say this is rare - I doubt that claim with the number of people and health care providers that ask me if I was on Levaquin when they hear that my Achilles tendon ruptured.

Jc Johnson @Joshua - thanks for the advice yet my point is I would have like to have been told this BEFORE I took the medication and given accurate information. Your description of why the rupture occurs is not the same that my ortho tells me or the research I’ve done. The Levaquin weakens the tendon - therefore causing it to rupture - one should not do strenuous physical
activity while taking Levaquin - so I guess your explanation fits - the levaquin weakens the tendon - the tendon is stressed during strenuous physical activity and then - shazam - it ruptures when you stand up from a chair.

Joshua Tucker Yes, that's sounds like what I was saying/describing. The point is, the damage is done before a rupture, that allows the rupture. Granted, actually falling apart doesn't help anything. However, while it's true one shouldn't do strenuous physical activity while taking Levaquin, that falsely implies that A. activity is the problem and B. avoiding activity will avoid Levaquin damage. That second point is very, very false.

Darlene Sevin I took Cipro three times in a nine-month period for UTIs. Following that, I ended up with a partially torn, inflamed left Achilles tendon. My doctor insisted it had nothing to do with taking the Cipro, but I will never take it again. I'm the one who ended up in the air boot for two months and have a left calf with significant muscular atrophy.

Britt Godwin @priscilla.......I sneezed the other day and fractured 3 ribs. just those of us who are bitter go thru this!

Paula Hales

Thanks for bringing the seriousness of the side affects of this drug. I am hearing that doctors are not prescribing levaquin as often for sinus infections. I took this drug three years ago for a sinus infection, I am allergic to penicillin and was told by the doctor that 1 in 100 people will get hives from another antibiotic and 1 in 1000 to levaquin - that it's a very clean drug. Therefore, I felt confident that my chances of getting hives would be minimal. I had no idea that she just prescribed me a medication that would have such an adverse effect of my quality of life. I have had 2 surgeries and am going to consult with my orthopedic doctor about getting a shoulder replacement. The drug attacked the cartilage in my joints and now I suffer from severe osteoarthritis. I went from waling 3 1/2 hours a day to not being able to walk across the grocery store. Every joint in my body is in constant pain. Levaquin should be used for life threatening events, and then the person should be given the option knowing the true implications of the drug - most certainly not for a sinus infection that probably could have been cured with saline nose drops. By the way, this did cause an arthritic condition in the lab animals - I learned that from my orthopedic surgeon!
Thanking The Lord I'm Alive

I was prescribed levaquin for a routine uti. I am a very healthy 47 year old woman, slender, don't smoke, active. I took one pill the afternoon I received the meds. I became exhausted that night and went to bed, thinking I was overly tired from the infection. I got up to urinate in the night and knew something was wrong. I could only open my eyes a sliver and was very weak. The next day, I felt a little better initially, but by 11 am I was having difficulty functioning, I took my antibiotic for the day and it was a huge mistake. I collapsed, unable to function. I could not raise up off the couch to get a drink, but I knew I had to. I couldn't get up to let the dog out. My head hurt so bad and I could not think clearly. The only thing I remember was how good it felt to breathe. That was the only thing that didn't hurt. I could not open my eyes but a tiny opening. When my daughter came home from school she brought me liquids and held the cup while I drank from a straw. I prayed that The Lord would take my life. My husband came home from an out of town trip that evening and was shocked at my condition. I could hardly edge out the words to tell him what was going on, other than I thought I was going to die. He went and read the drug info that had come with the meds. He said it was the meds and not to take them anymore. He called a lot of friends and asked them to pray for me. He asked if I needed to go to the ER. I didn't have the energy, but said if I worsened he would call an ambulance. Here it is the next day. I am off those meds and I am weak, but I don't feel like I am at death's door. I don't want to die, and I praise The Lord for saving me. My husband took me to the doctor to get new meds today. they were quite nonchalant about my ordeal. the nurse told me they don't report these things to any national database. I am a little concerned about the future after reading other posts, but I am thankful to be breathing and living today. I will tell everyone I know about the dangers of these drugs. I had never given it a second thought before.

Stephanie Henriksen

Relieved to join the conversation. I fell over a broken fence onto a rusty metal lawn sculpture Aug. 12, 2011. I am a diabetic so levaquin was the worst choice of antibiotic.

I warned doctors and nurses of side effects I was having in the hospital and later in nursing home but was ignored. All nursing shifts were put on alert that I was a "difficult patient."

I now have irreversible nerve damage (lack of sensation throughout the body), vascular insufficiency (can walk for short periods only) and loss of vision. I have massive damage to
blood vessels in one eye which two laser treatments have not responded to. Anyone else experiencing vision loss?

CIPRO

Yes, the Fluoroquinolones can cause a severe reaction that hasn't been fully appreciated by the medical community. I am a physician and I know how ignorant we are with regards to the side effects. The FDA warning doesn't take a strong stand against the side effects and fails to mention that Fluoroquinolones lead to a SYNDROME with many side effects. To believe this class of medications causes one or another side effect is completely irresponsible of the FDA. As a physician and as someone that is suffering the Fluoroquinolone syndrome/toxicity, I beg the FDA to limit the use of Fluoroquinolones to life and death situations, and to recognize that Fluoroquinolones can lead to a syndrome that can last months if not years. If it wasn't for my vacation and sick leave days, and the kindness and understanding of my employer, I would be out of a job! Yes, a Physician at age 43 out of a job and on disability.

This is proposterous to say the least. The FDA must take the sufferers seriously. I have reviewed many scientific articles and they are all fixated to within the author(s) specialty. Fluoroquinolones affect many organs and need a generalized scrutiny. I was well aware of the possibility of the tendinopathy from Fluoroquinolones, but I wasn't aware of the syndrome that ensues.

Prior to this toxicity, I was a healthy, physically active person. I had NO medical history. For God's sake, I had never taken any meds except a few motrins and Tylenols here and there. This medication has completely made my life miserable. I feel like a 300 year person. Please, I beg the FDA to take a moral and ethical stand above monetary gains, and limit the use of these meds, and to better inform the public of the syndrome that may arise, and believe me, as a sufferer, the symptoms aren't your garden variety symptoms. THEY ARE FROM HELL!

 amy

Three out of five of my family have taken a fluoroquinolone antibiotic product and we've had severe reactions. Levaquin and Cipro are POISON.
Bill Milligan

Antibiotics Nearly Killed Me -- Please Read
by Bill Milligan on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 9:01pm
Well, not exactly. But for a few months I was starting to wonder if I was going to recover. I put some serious thought into whether I should simply close up shop and call it a life. A lot of people have asked me what happened, so I'm putting the whole story together here for easy reference.

In May and June of this year I was prescribed two rounds of antibiotics. The first is called Avelox. The second is called Levaquin. Both of these belong to a family of antibiotics called the quinolones, or fluoroquinolones, which also include Cipro, Floxin, and a few others. If you value your health and sanity, I recommend you avoid these. I was given these to combat a persistent cough that had not relented for two months. Neither Levaquin nor Avelox had any effect whatsoever on the cough.

On the other hand, my life became a living hell for almost four months. First, I lost the ability to walk without intense pain in my legs. Joint pain spread throughout my body, from the feet upward. Then I lost most of my sense of balance. I've always thought of myself as calm, cool, and collected, but I developed some severe emotional issues: panic attacks, inexplicable crying jags, deep depression, and insane rages. I couldn't cope with even small stresses. My memory was absolutely shot -- I had to write myself notes sometimes on what I was going to do when I went into another room, like the guy from Memento. It was very difficult to think sometimes -- ever felt like a word was on the tip of your tongue but you just couldn't spit it out? After quinolones, I was like that, day in and out, for months. Further, I had peripheral neuropathy, which ranged from sharp burning pains on my skin to uncontrollable twitches, and debilitating weakness. I could not pick up even my youngest daughter for fear I would drop her either from lack of strength, or balance, or just muscular twitches. Even my hearing was diminished, and I had to focus on reading lips. My blood pressure went, almost overnight, from near-perfect to dangerously high. I had chest pains. I had kidney pains. I had insomnia, awful tiredness, and (unusual, for floxies) an insatiable appetite. I had a horrible taste in my mouth that made me fear the worst for my liver. I felt like I was 82, not 32.

All in all, every day was torture. I was absolutely unable to work. I didn't trust myself to drive. I became housebound. I became unable to take care of my children, and had to rely on my parents to basically take over. Hobbling on my cane to the bathroom and back to bed became my main form of exercise. Negotiating stairs was a nightmare. Sometimes my arms hurt too much to use my cane, and so walking became that much more difficult.
I count myself lucky. Some people with quinolone toxicity have symptoms that are similar but far more severe. And whether it was due to some unusual treatments I'd lucked into, or whether it was just my time to recover, I'll never know -- but I'd recovered from most of these symptoms by the end of September, and the rest of them by November. Many people suffering from "levaquin poisoning" or "floxing" take years to recover, if they ever do. I'm hopeful that the symptoms won't return. For many floxies, they sometimes do, months later, in cycles that can last a lifetime.

Now, there are some interesting things to note about the quinolone antibiotics. First, they have been "black boxed" by the FDA because of serious adverse reactions linked to tendon rupture and tendonitis. This means that there is a warning on the original box in which the antibiotics are sold. Do you ever read these? I sure didn't. In our litigious society we're bombarded with pointless, idiotic warnings everywhere we look. BEWARE, STEAMING HOT COFFEE CAN BURN YOU. We go numb to these kinds of warnings, and the net effect is to simply ignore them. Only this time, the warning is actually important -- and doesn't go anywhere near far enough in explaining what can go wrong.

There are other things to note. The chances of getting adverse reactions increase dramatically if you are taking corticosteroids (such as Prednisone), or NSAIDs (such as Advil) (or if you're over 65). My former doctor, a specialist in ear/nose/throat, knew about this increased risk. He prescribed me a corticosteroid called Dexamethasone, which is about ten times as powerful as Prednisone. Stupidly, I took it. When I called him to tell him about my troubles, his advice was to take Advil. Thankfully, I had wised up by this point, but the damage was already done between the Avelox and the Dexamethasone. I had trusted my doctor. This is a mistake, and I encourage you to please learn from my mistakes. Do your own homework. A doctor can be just as ignorant about medicine as you are, but his medical license gives your good old doc an excuse to be arrogant about his ignorance. Ignore the bluster. And don't trust the FDA, either. When your doctor starts saying, "It's time to bring out the big guns", it's time to start asking serious questions.

Oh, and by the way, my cough never went away, although I had far more luck with "alternative" herbal medicines in minimizing it than I ever had with Levaquin or Avelox.

Interestingly enough, there has never been enough adequate science to determine how these drugs work. They just don't know! There have been some theories that the drugs work by altering bacterial DNA directly, but there is no science to prove this, nor any science to prove that it is not mutagenic to human cells either. Think about that for a moment.
The scariest thing is that it can take months for these reactions to show up, long after your last dose. If you or someone you know has suddenly developed something that was diagnosed as fibromyalgia, crohn’s disease, tendonitis (or more accurately tendonosis), chronic fatigue symptom, kidney trouble, or other dire long term disorders, look through the medical history to see if these drugs have been given any time in the last year.

Since I was "floxed", I've met a great many people online who have been affected by these medicines. Many of them have had their lives changed forever. It doesn't take a large dose -- the worst case I know of was a formerly athletic man in his 30s who took a single 250 mg Levaquin tablet several years ago. He's still in a wheelchair. Please do not be the next one in line. The risks are not worth any purported benefit. Do not take Levaquin, Avelox, Cipro, or Floxin unless your life itself is quite literally at stake. Talk to your friends and relatives about these drugs. Spread the word.

A 59 year old patient was prescribed Cipro in 1992 for a urinary tract infection. He experienced a variety of progressive symptoms. These included burning sensations, shortness of breath, fatigue, confusion, chills, sleep disturbances, night sweats, a feeling of alternating hot and cold, ocular problems, increasing cognitive dysfunction, a sensation of electric shocks and many other symptoms. After a long evaluation it was decided that he was suffering with a severe quinolone reaction; he was prescribed Klonopin which he has taken every since. The Klonopin has been effective.

He recently visited my office because he was not feeling well. He had been off Klonopin for 5 months and symptoms were returning. Off the Klonopin recently--he developed: severe fatigue, sleep disorders, tinnitus, head pressure, a sensation of electric shocks, numbness and tingling, joint pain, increased anxiety and hot and cold sensations.

Upon further questioning, perhaps he has not felt entirely normal on Klonopin. He has suffered with stiff fingers, anxiety, periodic weakness in his legs. dry mouth with dental carries and progressive brain fog associated with progressive memory loss. He has written these symptoms off to normal aging.

Fluoroquinolones also are known to trigger another bizarre side effect -- tendon rupture, particularly the Achilles. Kansas dermatologist J. Michael Casparian took Cipro five years ago for a cough. Six months later he was playing charades in his living room when he experienced what felt like "a baseball bat hitting my ankle." A few years later, his other Achilles tendon snapped

I have been on Cipro for 5 days and have lost most of my hearing in both ears. No problem prior to Cipro.
I was prescribed Cipro in July 2010 for an infection I acquired after a routine medical procedure. I was 48 at the time and in excellent shape, very active, athletic and had a very promising career doing something I loved and excelled at. Within ten days after finishing five days of Cipro I began to fall apart physically. The effects of this drug were 1000 times worse than I could have ever imagined. Neuromuscular weakness, small fiber neuropathy, low energy, body-wide tendon pain, joint pain and dysfunction in thumb, wrist, fingers and more. I was instantly brittle. The slightest physical effort or exertion could cause pain and injury.

Injuries to my hand caused by Cipro forced me out on multiple leaves and I was eventually laid off. The head of the hand surgery dept at the Cleveland Clinic examined my hand, and suggested that I should find a new profession . . . presumably, one that does not require repetitive or muscular use of my hands. This drug has potentially cost me approximately hundreds of thousands of dollars in income – not to mention tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket medical costs. My life savings has dwindled fast and I have serious concerns about my future. Medicine does not recognize Fluoroquinolone Toxicity.

There is a word in the vernacular for people who have been debilitated in multiple ways by Fluoroquinolones - it's called being “floxed”. We also call it ‘Fluoroquinolone Toxicity Syndrome’ – as yet unrecognized in orthodox medicine. Floxing has been written about in the NY Times, Forbes, a best selling book, Bitter Pills, and has been featured in both documentary and feature film (Certain Adverse Effects, and The East, respectively). And yet, medicine continues to refuse to acknowledge Fluoroquinolone Toxicity. Why are doctors and medical professionals the last to know about these severe toxic reactions?

The FDA knows about these reactions, big Pharma knows about these reactions – why do doctors and pharmacists not know? Even the drug reps selling these drugs do not know. There is ample science, empirical evidence, and patient experience to back all these extreme adverse reactions. The evidence and the Rx victims are swept under the carpet or told “yes, but it is extremely rare” . . . (these reactions are so grossly under reported and acknowledged that it borders on criminal – no, it is criminal). We have had doctors, dentists, drug reps, and even pharmacists join our support boards looking for help after being floxed . . . NONE of them had any clue that these drugs could wreak this kind of havoc - body-wide tendon damage, cartilage damage, neuromuscular weakness, CNS damage, mitochondrial damage, exercise intolerance, any kind of collagenous tissue damage (eyes, connective tissue, skin, vascular, etc) and more. Many lose their jobs, income, livelihood and their ability to enjoy their lives . . . and, there are the suicides, too. Thank you for writing about this and helping to bring this crime out of the dark and into the light.

I have scrolled and searched the net for what seems like forever, to find any similarity of the experience I had tgat the Drs don't have an answer for but swear it's not the medicines fault. Earlier this month I
went through what you described your daughter did. I however am 36 yrs old and a mother of 5. My medical chart does state I am allergic to cipro but the dr ensured me levaquin was different. I went from my legs feeling numb, then swollen upper arms with little purple spots under skin, to my heart racing feeling like it was jumping out of my chest and difficulty breathing. Trip to the ER, showed my blood work totally out of wack, blood clotting factors off the charts, super tachy with sudden bouts of extreme HBP, admitted to hospital for a week POTS syndrome/autonomic issues was their diagnosis. My meds all the same no levaquin since put in hospital it was only my 3rd dose. I also couldn’t swallow for 3 weeks, lost 21 lbs. and had horrible thrush which they did agree was from antibiotic. This medicine is horrible.

I would have never in my life thought 5 little pills could devastate someones body like this.

My symptoms began in February about 10 days after I took the last pill of my 5 pill prescription for a unconfirmed UTI. I had no side affects whatsoever while taking them.

It began with the most horrible crawling and biting feelings in my legs and arms. There was also bizarre humming and electric buzzing feelings going up my calves and from my fingers up my arms and an unbearable tickle in the arches of my feet. I could see my nerves and muscles twitching in my thighs. I also had very severe brain fog, ringing in my ears, blurry vision, eye pressure, eye floaters, head pressure, muscle weakness, extremely dry eyes and lips/mouth, hallucinations and the worst insomnia imaginable. Its like my brain would not turn off.

A few days after these initial symptoms all of my tendons began to burn and I couldn't even stand up. My achilles were so tight and felt as if they were elastic bands about to snap.

My tendons continue to flare up occasionally and sometimes have difficulty walking, its not only my achilles which were affected. I continue to have problems with my eyes aswell.

I believe i had my first reaction in 2008, however I only pieced it together after my second exposure which resulted in this much more severe reaction. Thats when I began looking online and discovered all the black box warnings and learned how dangerous these pills can be. I saw how many other people were suffering like I was. I was absolutely horrified.

Unfortunately like so many other people, I was unaware and never warned of the risks associated with these types of antibiotics, had I known theres no way I would have ever taken them.

Used to have a fiance, a really good job, I was a martial artist, this damn stuff took it all away, spent years of pain and agony, both physically and emotionally as a result, my ilfe is now completely aimless. I am alive, but am dead inside.