

Anti-Inflammatory Medicine

Celecoxib (Celebrex)

Why is this medication prescribed?

Celecoxib (Celebrex) is used to relieve pain, tenderness, swelling and stiffness caused by pain from sports-related injuries, osteoarthritis (arthritis caused by a breakdown of the lining of the joints), rheumatoid arthritis (arthritis caused by swelling of the lining of the joints), and ankylosing spondylitis (arthritis that mainly affects the spine). Celecoxib (Celebrex) is in a class of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) called COX-2 inhibitors. It works by stopping the body's production of a substance that causes pain and inflammation.

How should this medicine be used?

Celecoxib (Celebrex) comes as a capsule to take by mouth. It is usually taken once or twice a day. If you are taking up to 200 mg of celecoxib (Celebrex) at a time, you may take the medication with or without food. If you are taking more than 200 mg of celecoxib (Celebrex) at a time, you should take the medication with food. To help you remember to take celecoxib (Celebrex), take it around the same time(s) every day. Follow the directions on your prescription bottle carefully, and do NOT take more or less of it, or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking celecoxib (Celebrex),

- Tell your doctor if you are allergic to celecoxib (Celebrex), aspirin or other anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) and naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn), sulfa medications, or any other medications.
- Tell your doctor what prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, nutritional supplements, and herbal products you are taking or plan to take.
- Tell your doctor if you have any heart, liver or kidney problems
- Your physician may do screening blood work (pre and post season) for your kidney or liver

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Celecoxib (Celebrex) may cause side effects. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- Diarrhea
- Gas or bloating
- Unexplained weight gain
- Upset stomach or stomach pain
- Excessive tiredness
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Itching
- Loss of appetite
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- Rash
- Swelling of the face, throat, tongue, lips, eyes, hands, feet, ankles, or lower legs
- Cloudy, discolored, or bloody urine