



SOME ANTIBIOTICS CAN CAUSE TENDON DAMAGE

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In France and Britain, doctors aggressively warn patients about the rare side effects of taking certain antibiotics. At issue are antibiotics called fluoroquinolones, sold under such brand names as Cipro and Floxin to treat bladder, respiratory and other infections.

The drugs sometimes inflame or even rupture patients' tendons. Continuing the drugs after tendons become sore can turn simple tendinitis into a rupture – most frequently of the Achilles tendon – that can require surgery to fix, warned Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the consumer group Public Citizen.

The FDA, which has received at least 52 reports of Americans with tendon damage, approved new antibiotic warning labels.

However, the fine print on labels are often missed by the doctor and the patient is never notified of the possible side effects. Patients should be aware of these drugs; they include: Ciprofloxacin, Enoxacin, Lomefloxacin, Norfloxacin and Ofloxacin.

SOURCE: The Los Angeles Times, Associated Press (Date unavailable)