

Doxycycline

FACT SHEET

Doxycycline is used to treat infections.
It will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.

Before using this medication, the following should be considered:

Allergies – Tell your health care professional if you are allergic to this medication or to any other tetracycline drug.

Birth Control – If you are taking birth control pills, notify your health care provider. Use of antibiotics may make your birth control pills less effective. If you are taking birth control pills, it is suggested that you use an additional method of birth control (such as foam and condoms) until your next period.

Pregnancy – If you are pregnant, if you are trying to get pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding: This drug may cause the unborn infant's teeth to become discolored and may slow the growth of the infant's teeth and bones if taken during pregnancy.

Breastfeeding – Use by nursing mothers is not recommended since doxycycline passes into breast milk and may cause unwanted effects in the baby.

Other diseases - Be sure to tell your health care provider if you have liver or kidney disease or if you have the disease Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.

Other medicines – It is important for your health care provider to know all medications you are taking, including penicillin, herbal supplements, vitamin and mineral supplements, and food supplements.

Proper use of this medication:

- If doxycycline upsets your stomach, it may be taken with meals or a snack.
- To help clear up your infection completely, keep taking this medicine for the full time of treatment until all pills are gone, even if you begin to feel better after a few days. **DO NOT MISS ANY DOSES.**
- If you miss a dose of this medicine, space the missed dose and the next dose 2 to 4 hours apart, then go back to your regular schedule. **Do not double doses.**

TO STORE THIS MEDICINE

1. Keep out of reach of children.
2. Store away from heat, moisture or direct light.
3. Do not keep outdated medicine or medication that is no longer needed.

Precautions while using this medicine

- If symptoms do not improve within a few days, or they become worse, check with your doctor.
- Do not take antacids, calcium supplements, magnesium-containing laxatives such as Epsom salt, or sodium bicarb (baking soda) within one or two hours of the time you take the doxycycline. To do so may keep the medicine from being absorbed making it ineffective.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking doxycycline if you have a history of liver disease.
- Some people who take doxycycline may become more sensitive to the sun than they are normally. When you first start taking this medicine avoid too much sun until you see how you react, especially if you tend to burn easily. You may still be more sensitive to the sun for several weeks after you stop taking the medicine.

-Continued on back-



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Precautions while using this medicine (continued)

- If this medicine has changed color, taste, or looks different, has become old or outdated, has been stored incorrectly (too warm or too cold) or otherwise appears to look changed DO NOT USE IT. To do so may cause serious side effects. Discard it by flushing it down the toilet.
- Before having surgery with general anesthetic tell your health care provider or dentist if you are taking this medication or any other drug.

Side Effects of the Medicine:

If you experience the following symptoms, please call your health care provider for further advice. These side effects do not occur often, but may require medical attention:

- Rash, itching, hives
- Fever
- Wheezing or trouble breathing
- Painful swollen joints
- Jaundice or unusual bleeding or bruising of the skin.

Other side effects may occur which do not require medical attention. However, if they continue or you are worried about them, call your health care provider for advice. They may include:

- Loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Sore tongue or mouth, sore throat
- Itching of the rectal or genital area

In some people, doxycycline may cause the tongue to become darkened or discolored. These changes are only temporary and will go away when you stop the medication.

Things to remember when taking any medication:

- This medicine has been prescribed for your present problems only. It must not be given to other people or be used for other problems unless you have been instructed to do so by your health care provider.
- In order for this medicine to work, it must be taken as directed.
- If you have questions about this medicine, call the clinic.