

Metronidazole

FACT SHEET

Metronidazole 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 have ever had any unusual or allergic reactions to metronidazole, or if you are allergic to any other items such as food, preservatives, or dyes.

Pregnancy – Studies have not been done in humans. Metronidazole has not been shown to cause birth defects in animal studies; however, use is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy.

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

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

Proper use of this medication:

- If metronidazole 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.
- If you miss a dose of this medicine, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing 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 out-dated 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.
- Drinking alcoholic beverages or alcohol containing preparations while taking this medicine may cause stomach pain, nausea, vomiting. *You should not drink alcohol or alcohol containing preparations while you are taking this medicine and for at least 3 days after finishing it.*
- Metronidazole may cause dryness of the mouth, a metallic taste, and/or a change in taste sensation.
- Metronidazole may cause some dizziness. Make sure you know how you react to this medication before you drive, use machines, or anything else that could be dangerous if dizzy or not alert.
- If you are taking this medication for trichomoniasis, your sexual partner should be treated at the same time you are being treated, even if he or she has no symptoms.

Side Effects of the Medicine:

(Check with your health care provider if any of the following side effects occur)

- Any vaginal irritation or discharge not present before using this medicine
- Frequent or painful urination, inability to control urine flow
- Vomiting, skin rash or hives, unusual bleeding or bruising, severe low back and stomach pain
- Numbness, tingling pain and weakness in hands or feet
- Seizures

