

Medication Fact Sheet

Doxycycline



Doxycycline is an antibiotic used to treat different kinds of infections. It is used to treat infections caused by anthrax and plague bacteria.

If you have been given doxycycline or other tetracycline antibiotics in the past and had a reaction or side effect, another antibiotic may be given to you. These other antibiotics are just as effective as doxycycline in preventing infection.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding be sure to tell the health care workers in the clinic.

Tell the health care worker if you are taking any medicine for seizures such as Dilantin, Phenobarbitol, Tegretol or Carbatrol, or if you are taking any medicines that you can buy without a prescription such as aspirin, cold or sinus medicine. If you are taking any of these medications, you must see your primary care provider within three to five days after starting the antibiotics.

How to take Doxycycline:

- You will be given a day supply of Doxycycline. If we learn that you need to take Doxycycline for a longer period of time, a health care worker will contact you.
- Take Doxycycline two times each day, about 12 hours apart. Be sure you take all the medicine you are given in the clinic. If you stop taking Doxycycline too soon, you may become infected.
- It is best to take Doxycycline one hour before or two hours after you eat a meal. If your stomach becomes upset, take Doxycycline with food. **DO NOT** take Doxycycline with milk, yogurt or cheese.
- Take Doxycycline with a full glass of water. Drink several glasses of water each day.
- If you miss a dose, take Doxycycline as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at the regular time. **DO NOT** take two doses at one time.

Reactions or Side Effects:

- **Common side effects:** nausea, mild diarrhea, stomach pain, cramps or discomfort, lightheadedness (**DO NOT** drive a car or operate machinery if you experience these symptoms).
- Doxycycline may make your skin more sensitive to the sun, and you may sunburn more easily for several months after you finish the medicine. It is best to stay out of the sun, avoid sun lamps and wear sunscreen to protect your skin.
- **Rare side effects:** yellow or discolored skin or teeth, increase frequency or amount of urine, headache, increase thirst, loss of appetite, vomiting, visual changes or muscle weakness.
- Seek medical advice if you have a reaction to Doxycycline.

Avoid the following food and drugs while taking Doxycycline:

Do not take the following medications within two hours before or two hours after taking Doxycycline: antacids (Maalox, Mylanta, Tums) or other medicine or foods that contain calcium such as milk, yogurt or cheese; vitamins, iron or zinc supplements; sucralfate (Carafate).

DO NOT give your Doxycycline to any other person.

DO NOT give Doxycycline to children without a physician's order.

If you do not understand these instructions or if you want more information, please tell the health care worker before you leave the clinic area.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).