

Medication Information

Doxycycline

(doxs – i – SYE – kleen)

Other names for this medication

Doxy, Apprilon, Doxycin, Doxytab, Periostat, Vibramycin

How this medication is used

Take this medication exactly as directed. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well. Stopping an antibiotic too early may result in failure to cure your infection.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any other medications, natural or herbal products that you take – even the ones you buy without a prescription.

Do not take this medication with milk, yogurt or other dairy products or calcium containing juices. If you use antacids (see page 3 for examples), minerals or mineral containing vitamins, take doxycycline at least 3 hours before or after these medicines. Vitamins and minerals include calcium, magnesium, zinc and iron.

If you miss a dose of this medication, 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 time. Do not take two doses at one time.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- You may not feel as hungry as usual.
- Nausea or upset stomach.
- Diarrhea.
- You are more likely to get sunburnt while taking this medication so please wear sunscreen and try avoid sun exposure while on this antibiotic.

Tablets: Tablets may be taken with or without food (but see directions above with regards to milk products). Take the tablet with a full glass of water and do not lie down for at least 30 minutes after taking it.

Oral Suspension: Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Store at room temperature, the suspension can be used for 14 days after being mixed by the pharmacist.

Contact your health care provider right away or go to the emergency department if you notice:

- Severe diarrhea and/or abdominal pain
- No improvement or worsening of your infection
- A temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- Skin rash or hives
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Difficulties with swallowing and heartburn
- Swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips

This medication information handout does not list all possible unwanted effects. Keep track of how you are feeling after you start taking this medication and report any unwanted effects to your doctor or health care provider.

Common medications that interact with doxycycline

Use caution with these medications while taking doxycycline:

- Minerals and multivitamins (such as calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron) and Antacids, ulcer medications (such as milk of magnesia, TUMS®, Gaviscon®, sucralfate):
 - These will bind to doxycycline and reduce the effect of the antibiotic. Please take at least 3 hours before or after doxycycline .
- Vitamin K antagonists, such as warfarin:
 - If you are on warfarin, your health care provider may ask you to get your INR checked more often as doxycycline can change the way warfarin is metabolized (broken down) by your body.

Speak to your pharmacist or health care provider if you are on any of the above medications.

Pregnancy: Doxycycline is not normally recommended during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your doctor or healthcare provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

Breastfeeding: Doxycycline is excreted into breast milk and is generally not recommended during breastfeeding. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Doxycycline is not recommended for children less than 8 years old.