

# Medication Information

## Metronidazole

(Met – roe – NYE – da – zole)

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### Other names for this medication

Flagyl®

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well. If you stop taking this antibiotic too early, it may not cure your infection.

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 take the medication at your regular dosing time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

### While taking this medication you may notice:

- nausea
- upset stomach
- diarrhea
- abdominal pain
- constipation
- headache
- metallic taste – which is a normal side effect of this medication.

**Immediate release tablet or capsule:** Take with food to reduce stomach upset.

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

- sharp stabbing pain, numbness and/or tingling in the hands and feet (which usually happens after using this medication for more than 2 weeks)
- severe diarrhea and/or abdominal pain
- prolonged constipation
- no improvement or worsening of your infection
- worsening skin rash or hives
- a temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips
- a yeast infection of the groin – see your doctor for an antifungal medication

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

**Common medications that interact with metronidazole**

Use caution with these medications while taking metronidazole:

- **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 taking these drugs together may increase the risk of bleeding.

- **Lithium**

Metronidazole may increase the lithium level.

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

**Alcohol:** Metronidazole can increase your sensitivity towards alcohol. Common “hangover” effects including headache, flushing of the skin, dizziness and nausea which may be felt right after you drink alcohol while on this medication. Avoid drinking alcohol with metronidazole or within 3 days after stopping metronidazole.

**Pregnancy:** Metronidazole should be avoided during the first 4 months of pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

**Breastfeeding:** Metronidazole passes into breast milk. Do not breastfeed for 12 to 24 hours after a dose of metronidazole. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

**Children:** Metronidazole is safe to use with infants, children and adolescents.