



Doxycycline

Treatment

- An antibiotic used to treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

How do I take this medication?

- A capsule taken by mouth.
- Take Doxycycline with a full glass of water.
- Do not lay down or go to bed within 1-2 hours of taking Doxycycline – this will help to reduce the throat irritation that can be caused by Doxycycline.
- Taking Doxycycline with food may help decrease nausea – however, avoid taking it with milk or other calcium-containing products.
- Do not stop until you have finished treatment unless directed by your health care provider.

Important things to know:

- Make sure you've disclosed any allergies and any medications you are taking.
- Some medications can make Doxycycline less effective and should be avoided while taking treatment:
 - Antacids (Tums®, Pepto-Bismol®, etc.)
 - Some vitamins/supplements (Iron, Zinc, Magnesium, etc.)
- Doxycycline can make your birth control pill less effective – use condoms or abstain while taking treatment and for 7 days after completing treatment.
- Avoid alcohol while taking treatment.
- Doxycycline can cause sensitivity to the sun and increase your risk of sunburn – avoid direct sunlight and tanning beds; use sunscreen with UV protection while on treatment.
- Do not take this medication if you are pregnant or breast/chest feeding.
- Do not have any sexual contact until you have finished your treatment.
- If you still have symptoms after treatment, contact the Sexual Health Clinic or your health care provider.

**Please contact your pharmacist or prescribing health care provider if you are concerned about a medication you are taking and Doxycycline use.*

Missed Dose

- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember unless it is time to take the next dose.
- Do not “double-up” or take 2 doses at once if you missed a dose.
- Continue to take as you normally would until the treatment is completed.



Possible Side Effects

- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea/loose stools
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite

***Although rare, Doxycycline can result in serious complications. If you have severe diarrhea, severe abdominal pain, skin reactions, throat lesions, a new/worsening headache, or other concerns, please seek medical attention immediately.**

Allergic Reaction

Please remain in the waiting room for **20 minutes** after your treatment to monitor for an allergic reaction. If you experience any of the following, inform the nurse right away:

- Hives with itching
- Itchiness, tearing, nasal congestion or facial flushing
- Painless swelling around the face and mouth
- Sneezing, coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing or difficulty swallowing

*** If you are at home and develop signs of an allergic reaction – please go to your nearest emergency department or contact 911.**

Follow Up Testing

Your health care provider will discuss follow- up testing if it is recommended.

References:

- Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (2021). *Gonorrhea Guide: Treatment and Follow Up* <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/gonorrhea/treatment-follow-up.html>
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