

Doxycycline

Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections, including those that cause acne. This medication is known as a tetracycline antibiotic. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth as directed. Doxycycline is best taken on an empty stomach with a full glass of water (8 ounces or 240 milliliters), 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals. Some manufacturers state it can be taken with food or milk if you develop an upset stomach, however doxycycline might be less effective if taken with food or milk (or other products high in calcium). Do not lie down for 30 minutes after taking this medication.

Take this medication 2-3 hours before or after taking any medications containing magnesium, aluminum, calcium, iron, or zinc. Some examples include quinapril, certain forms of didanosine (chewable/dispersible buffered tablets or pediatric oral solution), vitamins/minerals, antacids, sucralfate, and bismuth subsalicylate. These medications react with doxycycline, preventing its full absorption into your bloodstream.

Take this drug at evenly spaced intervals throughout the day and night.

Continue to take this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection.

Other uses for this medicine

This medication is also used to prevent malaria.

This drug may also be used to treat a certain skin condition (rosacea).

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking doxycycline, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to any other tetracycline; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: liver problems, kidney problems, trouble swallowing, esophagus problems (e.g., hiatal hernia, GERD).

This drug should not be used by children under 8 because treatment may lead to permanently discolored teeth or other problems.

This drug is not recommended for use during pregnancy.

This drug passes into breast milk and has had undesirable effects on nursing infants.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using doxycycline and call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- severe headache, dizziness, blurred vision;
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms;
- severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash;
- urinating less than usual or not at all;
- pale or yellowed skin, dark colored urine, fever, confusion or weakness;
- severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, nausea and vomiting, fast heart rate;
- loss of appetite, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes); or
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness.

Less serious side effects may include:

- swollen tongue, trouble swallowing;
- mild nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach upset;
- white patches or sores inside your mouth or on your lips;
- sores or swelling in your rectal or genital area; or
- vaginal itching or discharge.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature away from light and moisture.

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

What other information should I know?

Do not use this medication if you are pregnant. It could cause harm to the unborn baby, including permanent discoloration of the teeth later in life. Doxycycline can make birth control pills less effective. Use a second method of birth control while you are taking doxycycline to keep from getting pregnant.

Throw away any unused doxycycline when it expires or when it is no longer needed. Do not take any doxycycline after the expiration date printed on the bottle. Expired doxycycline can cause a dangerous syndrome resulting in damage to the kidneys.