
Patient Information: Doxycycline

Doxycycline 100 mg Oral Tablet or Doxycycline Oral Suspension

Take this medicine only as prescribed.

Doxycycline belongs to a class of drugs called tetracycline antibiotics. It is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat and protect people who have been exposed to anthrax spores.

How to take Doxycycline

Adults: Take 1 tablet every 12 hours as directed.

Children: A child's dose depends on body weight. Give the medicine to your child as directed by the doctor.

Take this medicine with a large glass of water and at least one full glass of water.

Do not take antacids (like Tums or Maalox), cholestyramine (Questran), colestipol (Colestid), dairy products (like milk or yogurt) or vitamins 3 hours before or after taking this medicine.

If you miss a dose, start again taking one pill three times each day. Do not take 2 pills at one time to make up for the missed dose. Finish all your pills, even if you feel fine, unless your doctor tells you to stop. **If you stop taking this medicine too soon, you may become ill.**

Side Effects

Common side effects of this medicine are an upset stomach, vomiting, or diarrhea. If you have problems with any of these symptoms, tell your doctor.

Some people might have dark urine; yellowing of the eyes or skin; sore throat; fever; unusual bleeding or bruising, tiredness; or white patches in the mouth. If you have any of these problems, tell your doctor right away.

Allergic reactions are rare. Signs of an allergic reaction are rash; itching; swelling of the tongue, hands or feet; fever; and trouble breathing. If you have any of these problems, tell your doctor right away.

Children: This medicine may make the teeth of children younger than 8 years old a gray color. This color does not go away. This medicine can also cause bones to grow more slowly in babies born early but this will stop when the medicine is finished.

Pregnant Women: There is not very much information about using this medicine during pregnancy. It could cause the baby's teeth to be stained a gray color or the bones not to grow. There is a small chance it could cause problems with the mother's liver.

Birth Control: Birth control pills may not work as well when taking this medicine. Use condoms or another form of birth control until you are finished taking all of the pills.

Sunburn: This medicine can make skin very sensitive to the sun and can cause sunburn. Avoid sun as much as possible. When outside, wear long sleeve shirt and hat and always put on sunscreen (30 SPF).

Tell Your Doctor

- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- The names of ALL of the medicines that you are taking, including pills that were bought at the store such as vitamins and antacids.
- If you get vaginal itching and discharge. This medicine can cause these problems.
- If you have ever had problems with your liver or kidneys, or if you heartburn often.

For more information, call the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center at 1-800-222-1222 or go to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/anthrax/.