

Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Doxycycline 50 mg hard capsules Doxycycline 100 mg hard capsules doxycycline

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Doxycycline capsules are and what they are used for
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1. WHAT DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE USED FOR

Doxycycline capsules contain the active substance doxycycline present as doxycycline hyclate. Doxycycline capsules are a tetracycline antibiotic which may be used to treat infections due to gram positive and gram negative bacteria sensitive to this medicine.

It is used to treat many different types of infections including:

- Chest, lung or nasal infections e.g. bronchitis, pneumonia, sinusitis.
- Urinary tract infections (the passage through which urine passes) e.g. cystitis, urethritis.
- Eye infections.
- Sexually transmitted diseases e.g. gonorrhoea, syphilis, chlamydia.
- Fevers associated with louse or tick bites.
- Malaria, when chloroquine is not effective.

Doxycycline capsules are also used to prevent certain infections developing; these are scrub typhus (a disease carried by small insects), Rocky Mountain spotted fever, travellers' diarrhoea, malaria, cholera and leptospirosis (a bacterial infection from contaminated water).

Your doctor may want you to take Doxycycline capsules to treat another infection not listed above. You may also be prescribed an additional medicine to take with Doxycycline capsules to treat your infection. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions, if you do not feel better or if you feel worse.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES

Do not take Doxycycline capsules:

- if you are allergic to doxycycline or any tetracyclines or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are breast-feeding.
- if you suffer from a condition where you have difficulty in swallowing food.

You should not use Doxycycline during periods of tooth development (pregnancy, infancy and in children up to 8 years old) as such use may lead to permanent tooth discolouration (yellow-grey-brown) or affect the proper growth of the teeth.

There may be circumstances (e.g. severe or life-threatening conditions), where your physician may decide that the benefits outweigh this risk in children below 8 years and doxycycline should be prescribed.

Warnings and precautions:

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Doxycycline capsules:

- if you are likely to be exposed to strong sunlight or UV light (e.g. sunbed). You should avoid exposure to strong sunlight while taking this medicine as your skin may be more sensitive to sunburn than normal.
- if you have kidney or liver problems.
- if you have an immune system disease that causes joint pain, skin rashes and fever (systemic lupus erythematosus). The condition may be worsened by taking Doxycycline.
- if you are suspected of having syphilis; your doctor will continue to monitor you after your treatment has stopped.
- if you have diarrhoea or usually get diarrhoea when you take antibiotics or have suffered from problems with your stomach or intestines. If you develop severe or prolonged or bloody diarrhoea during or after using Doxycycline capsules **tell your doctor immediately** since it may be necessary to interrupt the treatment. This may be a sign of bowel inflammation (pseudomembranous colitis) which can occur following treatment with antibiotics.
- if you suffer from acid reflux. Doxycycline capsules may make your condition worse and may not be a suitable medicine for you.
- if you have myasthenia gravis (a disease which commonly affects the muscles that control the eyes and eyelids, facial expressions, chewing, swallowing and speaking, but can affect the whole body).
- if you suffer from problems with your pancreas.
- if you experience increased pressure in your skull (severe headache) with a change in your vision.
- if you have difficulties when swallowing or feel discomfort in your throat or stomach after taking Doxycycline capsules tell your doctor immediately. Your doctor may advise you to stop taking Doxycycline capsules.

Tell your doctor straight away if you get serious skin reactions when taking this medicine, such as skin rash with blistering or peeling, mouth or genital ulcers often with flu-like symptoms (these may be signs of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) or Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS).

When used for a long duration, Doxycycline capsules may cause infections that cannot be treated with this antibiotic. Your doctor can explain the signs and symptoms of such types of infections.

Other medicines and Doxycycline capsules

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Some medicines can reduce the effectiveness of Doxycycline capsules, these include:

Antacids (indigestion remedies), iron preparations, oral zinc or bismuth. These should not be taken at the same time of day as Doxycycline capsules.

Carbamazepine, phenytoin (medicines used to control epilepsy) and barbiturates (used to control epilepsy or as a sedative).

Doxycycline capsules can affect the action of some other medicines, these include:

Increased action of warfarin or coumarins (used to prevent blood clots).
Reduced effectiveness of oral contraceptives (birth control pills).
Reduced effectiveness of penicillin antibiotics (used to treat infections).
Methoxyflurane (a type of anaesthetic).

Other warnings

Operation or Dental Surgery

If you are going to have a general anaesthetic for an operation or dental surgery, you must tell your anaesthetist or dentist that you are taking Doxycycline capsules as you may have more side-effects.

Laboratory Tests

Doxycycline capsules may interfere with some tests; tell your doctor if you need to give samples for laboratory assessment.

Doxycycline capsules with food, drink and alcohol

Studies indicate that the absorption of Doxycycline capsules is not affected when taken with food or drink. If Doxycycline capsules upset your stomach, then taking them with food or milk is recommended. Alcohol may reduce the effect of Doxycycline capsules and should be avoided.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

Doxycycline capsules must not be used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or you are breast-feeding. If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Doxycycline capsules are not known to affect your ability to drive and use machines. However, you should not drive or operate machinery unless Doxycycline capsules have been shown not to affect your physical ability.

Doxycycline 100 mg hard capsules contain sunset yellow (E110)

May cause allergic reactions.

Doxycycline 50 mg and 100 mg hard capsules contain sodium

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per capsule, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. HOW TO TAKE DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES

- Take Doxycycline capsules with a full glass of water when sitting or standing.
- It is best to take Doxycycline in the morning if possible, or at least 1 hour before going to bed.
- It is important not to lie down for at least thirty minutes after taking Doxycycline, so that the capsule can move as swiftly as possible into the stomach and prevent irritation of the throat or oesophagus (canal taking food from the mouth to the stomach).
- If your stomach is upset Doxycycline can be taken with food or milk.
- For treatment of infections, Doxycycline can be taken with or without food.
- Alcohol may reduce the effect of Doxycycline and should be avoided.

The information below shows the different doses that your doctor may prescribe depending on the infection being treated. Doctors sometimes prescribe different doses to these. The label on the pack will tell you what dose YOU should take. Always take Doxycycline exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Usual Dose

200mg on the first day, then 100mg daily. For more severe infections 200mg daily should be given for the treatment period. The length of treatment is dependent on the infection being treated.

Children aged 8 years to less than 12 years

Doxycycline for the treatment of acute infections in children aged 8 years to less than 12 years should be used in situations where other drugs are not available or are not likely to be effective. In such circumstances, the usual doses are:

For children 45kg or less

First day: 4.4 mg for each kg of bodyweight (in single or 2 divided doses) then 2.2 mg for each kg of bodyweight (in single or 2 divided doses) from the second day. The length of treatment is dependent on the infection being treated.

In more severe infections, up to 4.4 mg for each kg of bodyweight should be given throughout treatment.

For children over 45kg

Dose administered for adults should be used: 200mg on the first day, then 100mg daily. The length of treatment is dependent on the infection being treated.

Adults and children aged 12 years to less than 18 years

200mg on the first day, then 100mg daily. The length of treatment is dependent on the infection being treated.

Sexually transmitted diseases

100mg twice daily for 7 to 10 days.

Primary and Secondary Syphilis

100mg twice daily for 14 days. Your doctor will continue to monitor you after your treatment has stopped.

Fever associated with louse or tick bites

Single dose of 100mg or 200mg.

Treatment of malaria

200mg daily for at least 7 days. Your doctor will also prescribe you another medicine for malarial treatment (e.g. quinine) to be taken at the same time as Doxycycline.

Prevention of malaria

100mg daily from 1 to 2 days before travelling to a malarial area until 4 weeks after returning.

Prevention of scrub typhus (a disease carried by small insects)

Single dose of 200mg, once a week.

Prevention of travellers' diarrhoea

200mg on the first day of travel, followed by 100mg daily throughout the stay in the area. If you are planning to take Doxycycline for more than 21 days, please consult your doctor.

Treatment of leptospirosis (infection from contaminated water)

100mg twice daily for 7 days.

Prevention of leptospirosis (infection from contaminated water)

200mg once each week throughout the stay in the infected area: 200mg on completion of the trip. If you are planning to take Doxycycline for more than 21 days, please consult your doctor.

Treatment and prevention of cholera

A single dose of 300mg.

Stage 1 and 2 Lyme disease

100mg twice daily for 10 to 30 days. The length of treatment depends on how well you respond.

Infections due to susceptible strains of *Bacillus anthracis*

Adults: 100mg twice a day for 60 days.

Treatment of Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Adults: 100mg every 12 hours.

Children: weighing less than 45kg: 2.2 mg/kg body weight given twice a day. Children weighing 45kg or more should receive the adult dose.

Patients should be treated for at least 3 days after the fever subsides and until there is evidence of clinical improvement. Minimum course of treatment is 5-7 days.

If you take more Doxycycline than you should

If you take too much Doxycycline contact your doctor or nearest hospital Casualty Department immediately. Always take the labelled medicine package with you, whether there is any Doxycycline left or not.

If you forget to take Doxycycline

If you forget to take a capsule take it as soon as you can. Take your next capsule at the right time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Doxycycline

If you stop taking the capsules too soon, the infection may return. Take the capsules for the full time of treatment, even when you begin to feel better.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms of an allergic reaction after taking this medicine. Although they are very rare, the symptoms can be severe:

- sudden wheeziness, difficulty breathing, tightness in the chest, fever, swelling of eyelids, face or lips, rash or itching (especially affecting the whole body).
- upset stomach, loss of appetite, severe, persistent or bloody diarrhoea (this may occur up to two or three months after the last dose and may be associated with stomach pain or fever). This may occur after treatment with antibiotics and can be a sign of serious bowel inflammation.
- headache which, if very severe, may be associated with visual disturbance such as blurred vision or loss of vision. The possible symptoms in benign intracranial hypertension include headache, vomiting, visual disturbances including blurred vision, a localized defect in the visual field

bordered by an area of normal vision (scotoma), double vision (diplopia), and possible vision loss, in some cases, even permanent.

If any of the side effects listed below occur, contact your doctor as soon as possible.

- The Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction which causes fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, and skin rash that is usually self-limiting. This occurs shortly after starting doxycycline treatment for infections with spirochete such as Lyme disease.
- Skin rash, or flaking or peeling of the skin.
- Severe skin reaction which may cause you to feel very unwell.
- Skin is more sensitive to sunlight than normal. You may get a skin rash, itching, redness or severe sunburn. If this happens stop taking the medicine and tell your doctor.
- Fever, swollen lymph nodes or skin rash. These may be symptoms of a condition known as DRESS (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms) and can be severe and life-threatening.
- Inflammation and/or ulcers of the gut.
- Blood disorders. These are due to changes in numbers of different cell types in the blood. Symptoms may include tiredness, easy bruising or infection.
- Low blood pressure.
- Increased heart rate.
- Aches in the joints or muscles.
- Stomach pain or diarrhoea.

The following side effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. Tell your doctor if any of these side effects continue to bother you:

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- feeling or being sick
- worsening of a disease called systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). This is an allergic condition which causes joint pain, skin rash and fever
- pericarditis (inflammation affecting the heart)

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- heartburn

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- inflammation of the pancreas which causes severe pain in the abdomen and back
- difficulty in swallowing, sore or painful tongue or mouth
- skin reddening (flushing)
- a ringing or buzzing noise in the ear
- soreness and itching of the rectal and/or genital area
- inflammation of the bowel
- bulging fontanelles (soft spot on head) of infants
- increased pressure in the skull (severe headache with change in vision)
- inflammation and damage of the liver
- abnormal liver function tests
- discolouration of the thyroid tissue when given for long periods. The medicine does not impair thyroid function
- round or oval patches of redness and swelling of the skin, blistering (hives), and itching, which usually recurs at the same site(s) on re-exposure to the medication (fixed drug eruption)
- loosening of the nail from the nail bed after exposure to the sun
- increased levels of urea in the blood
- darker patches on your skin

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), inflammation of the pancreas
- discolouration and/or lack of growth of teeth.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects via the HPRA Pharmacovigilance website: www.hpra.ie. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not use this medicine if you notice visible signs of deterioration.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

The active substance is doxycycline (as doxycycline hyclate).

Each 50 mg hard capsule contains 50mg of doxycycline (as doxycycline hyclate). The other ingredients are:

Capsule contents: hypromellose, sodium lauryl sulphate, microcrystalline cellulose and magnesium stearate.

Capsule shell: gelatin and titanium dioxide (E171).

Each 100 mg hard capsule contains 100mg of doxycycline (as doxycycline hyclate). The other ingredients are:

Capsule contents: hypromellose, sodium lauryl sulphate, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate.

Capsule shell: gelatin, titanium dioxide (E171), sodium lauryl sulphate, brilliant blue (E133), quinoline yellow (E104) and sunset yellow (E110).

What Doxycycline hard capsules look like and contents of the pack

Doxycycline 50 mg hard capsules are White, size “4” hard gelatin capsules (14.8mm x 5.4mm) containing yellow granular powder.

Doxycycline 100 mg hard capsules are Green, size “2” hard gelatin capsules (18mm x 6.5mm) containing yellow granular powder.

Doxycycline 50 mg and 100 mg hard capsules are available in PVC/Aluminium blister packs containing 8, 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60, 84 and 90 capsules.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Athlone Pharmaceuticals Limited,

Connaught House,
1 Burlington Road,
Dublin 4,
Ireland.

Manufacturer:

Athlone Pharmaceuticals Limited
Maple House,
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Dublin 18,
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