

# Doxycycline

## for bacterial sexually transmitted infection prevention

100 mg capsule OR tablet

---

### What is doxycycline?

Doxycycline is an antibiotic that can be used to prevent or treat certain bacterial infections and other conditions.

Doxycycline taken after condomless sex can help reduce the risk of syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. This is also known as doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy pep).

Doxycycline does NOT protect against HIV, mpox, or other viral infections.

### How do I take doxycycline?

- Take two capsules or tablets (2 x 100mg) as soon as possible (up to 72 hours) after condomless sex (anal, oral, or vaginal/frontal). Do not take more than 200mg per 24 hours.
- Take doxycycline with a full glass of water, with or after food.
- Take doxycycline while standing or sitting upright. Wait at least 1 hour before lying down to prevent the medication from getting stuck when you swallow and causing irritation.
- Avoid taking dairy products, antacids, calcium, iron, magnesium, or zinc supplements at the same time as doxycycline.

Store in a dry place at room temperature, and keep out of reach of children.

People who are pregnant, thinking about becoming pregnant, or planning to breastfeed should talk to their healthcare provider before taking doxycycline.

### What should I expect?

Doxycycline is usually well tolerated.

Side effects may include:

- diarrhea
- abdominal pain
- nausea or vomiting
- throat irritation
- decreased appetite
- acid reflux

Doxycycline can make it easier to get a sunburn. Protect your skin by avoiding prolonged sun exposure and wearing sunscreen.

Rare, serious side effects may include:

- Allergic reaction: Signs include rash, blisters on skin or mouth, swelling of the face or throat, difficulty breathing, fever, flu-like symptoms
- Severe headache
- Vision changes: Signs include blurred vision, seeing double, or loss of vision
- Liver problems: Signs include yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, pale stools, or pain on right side below ribs

**Always tell your healthcare provider if side effects are bothering you. IMMEDIATELY contact your doctor if you have any serious side effects.**

**It is very important to get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) at regular intervals and whenever you have symptoms.**



## Can I take doxycycline with other medicines?

Some medicines may interact with doxycycline. Drug interactions can stop your treatment from working or may cause unwanted side effects.

Always tell your pharmacist if you are using any prescription or non-prescription medicines, vitamins, supplements, natural medicines or recreational drugs.

Medicines that may interact with doxycycline include:

- Calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc supplements, multivitamins with minerals, or antacids such as Tums®, Maalox®, or Diovol® may be used but must be taken at least 2 hours before or after doxycycline
- Some medicines to treat seizures such as phenytoin (Dilantin®), carbamazepine (Tegretol®)
- Some oral medicines to treat acne such as isotretinoin (Accutane®)
- Some blood thinners such as warfarin

This is not a complete list of medicines that interact with doxycycline. Tell your healthcare provider if you are already taking doxycycline or other tetracycline product to treat or prevent another condition (such as acne or rosacea). Always check with your pharmacist before starting any new medicines to make sure they are safe for you.

This pamphlet is for general information purposes only. It does not provide individual medical or treatment advice and is not a substitute for medical or professional care.

## How to refill doxycycline

### If doxycycline is needed at the SAME TIME as your antiretroviral (ARV) or HIV PrEP medicine:

For your convenience, it is recommended to refill doxycycline at the same time as your ARV or HIV PrEP medicine (if needed).

- 1) Ask your healthcare provider to fax prescriptions for both doxycycline and your ARV/HIV PrEP medicine to the BC-CfE (fax 604-806-9044).
- 2) Follow your usual ARV or HIV PrEP medicine reordering procedures and specify that you also need doxycycline.

### If doxycycline is needed IN BETWEEN ARV or HIV PrEP medication refills:

- 1) Ask your healthcare provider to fax a prescription for doxycycline INCLUDING your medication pick up date to the BC-CfE (fax 604-806-9044).
- 2) St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy will prepare your doxycycline for pick up by the specified pick up date.

**NOTE:** If you pick up your medicine at St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy (in Vancouver), your prescription must be received at least 3 business days before the pick up date.

If your medicine is sent to a community pharmacy or healthcare clinic outside Vancouver, your prescription is needed at least 5 days before the pick up date.

## What if I have questions?

Call St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy  
**1-800-547-3622**

Pharmacy Hours of Operation:  
Monday, Thursday, Friday 7:00am-5:00pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday 7:00am-7:30pm  
Closed weekends and statutory holidays