Doxycycline capsules

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

1. What Doxycycline capsules are and what they are for
Doxycycline capsules contain the active substance doxycycline as doxycycline monohydrate. Doxycycline is an antibiotic belonging to a group of medicines called tetracyclines. 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
- Acne (a skin condition)
- Eye infections
- Sexually transmitted diseases e.g. gonorrhoea, syphilis, chlamydia
- Fevers associated with loose or liquid stools
- 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, traveler’s diarrhoea, malaria and leptospirosis (a bacterial infection).

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. You must talk to your doctor if you do not feel better or if you feel worse.

2. What you need to know before you take Doxycycline capsules
Doxycycline capsules should not be taken:
- If you are allergic to doxycycline, other similar antibiotics (such as minocycline or tetracycline) or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you have porphyria (a rare disease of blood pigments).
- If you have myasthenia gravis (a disease which causes unusual tiredness and weakness of certain muscles, particularly in the eyelid).
- If you have diarrhoea or usually get diarrhoea when you take antibiotics or have symptoms of such types of infection.
- If you are likely to be exposed to strong sunlight or UV light (e.g. on a sun bed). You may be more sensitive to sunburn than normal.
- If you have kidney or liver problems.
- If you have diarhoea or you usually get diarhoea after you have taken antibiotics or have symptoms of such types of infection.
- If you are taking oral retinoids as there is a higher risk of suffering from increased pressure in your skull (severe headache with change in vision) when taken with Doxycycline capsules.

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

Other medicines and Doxycycline capsules
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken or might take any other medicines (including medicines you have obtained without a prescription).

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).
- Other antibiotics, such as those used for the treatment of infections.
- Increased action of warfarin or coumarins (used to prevent blood clotting).
- Reduced effectiveness of oral contraceptives (birth control pills).
- Increased blood levels of ciclosporin (a medicine used to affect the body’s immune response).

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 as you may have more side effects.

Takers Doxycycline capsules with food, drink and alcohol
Please see section 3. How to take Doxycycline capsules.

Alcohol may reduce the effect of Doxycycline capsules and should be avoided.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, talk to your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Doxycycline capsules must not be taken if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines
This medicine should not affect your ability to drive or use machines.

3. How to take Doxycycline capsules
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Swallow the capsules whole with a full glass of water. If the capsules irritate your stomach take them with food or milk.

You should take the capsules either before you go to bed or half an hour after your meal, to stop irritation and ulceration of your gullet. It is important that you do not lie down for at least thirty minutes after taking Doxycycline capsules.

The recommended doses are shown in the list below. These are the different doses that your doctor may prescribe depending on the infection being treated.

Usual Dose
- Chest, lung or nasal, urinary tract, eye and other infections:
- 200mg in the first day, then 100mg daily. The length of treatment is dependent on the infection being treated.
- Children aged 8 years or less:

Once you have finished taking this medicine, you must stop taking it even if you feel better. You should not stop the treatment or change the treatment without talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

If you take too much 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.

4. Possible side effects
Doxycycline capsules may cause infections that cannot be treated with the antibiotic. Your doctor can explain the signs and symptoms of such types of infection.

Other medicines and Doxycycline capsules
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Driving and using machines
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5. Contents of the pack and other information
Doxycycline capsules are available in the following strengths:
- 50mg
- 100mg

The active substance in each capsule is doxycycline as doxycycline monohydrate. Each capsule contains:

50mg: Doxycycline hyclate 20.9mg
100mg: Doxycycline hyclate 41.8mg

The capsule contains:
- gelatin (E465), lactose, talc, magnesium stearate, titanium dioxide (E171).
- Coating contains:
- gelatin (E407.1), carnauba wax (E920), hydroxypropyl cellulose, yellow iron oxide (E172).

This leaflet has been written for patients. It has not been written to be read medically.

6. What to do if you think you have had an overdose
If you think you have taken too much Doxycycline capsules, contact your doctor or local hospital straight away.

7. How to store Doxycycline capsules
Store below 25°C.

8. Disposal of unused medicine
Doxycycline capsules must be disposed of safely. It is illegal to dispose of medicines in household waste.

9. Further information
Get medical advice if you think you have had an overdose.

10. Night usage
You should take the capsules either before you go to bed or half an hour after your meal, to stop irritation and ulceration of your gullet. It is important that you do not lie down for at least thirty minutes after taking Doxycycline capsules.

11. Phototoxicity
Doxycycline for the treatment of acute infections in children aged 8 years to less than 12 years may be more sensitive to sunburn than normal.

12. If symptoms persist
If your symptoms do not improve or if your condition worsens, you should consult your doctor or pharmacist.

13. Further information
If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.
For children 45 kg or less:

- First day: 4.4 mg/kg bodyweight (in single or 2 divided doses), then 2.2 mg/kg for each subsequent day (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/kg bodyweight should be given throughout treatment.
- For children over 45 kg:

  - Dose administered for adults should be used, 200 mg on the first day, then 100 mg daily. The length of treatment is dependent on the infection being treated.
  - Adults and children aged 12 years to less than 18 years:

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

Acne: 50 mg daily for 6-12 weeks, with food or a drink.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: 100 mg twice daily for 7-10 days.

Primary and Secondary Syphilis: 200 mg twice daily for 2 weeks. Your doctor will continue to monitor you after your treatment has stopped.

Fever associated with louse or tick bites: single dose of 100 mg or 200 mg depending on severity.

Treatment of malaria, when chloroquine is not effective: 200 mg daily for at least 7 days.

Prevention of malaria: 100 mg daily from 1-2 days before travelling to a malaria area until 4 weeks after returning.

Prevention of scrub typhus: single dose of 200 mg.

Prevention of travellers’ diarrhoea: 100 mg twice daily on the first day of travel, followed by 100 mg throughout the stay in the area. If you are planning to take these capsules for more than 21 days, please consult your doctor.

Prevention of leptospirosis: 200 mg once each week, during the stay in the area, 200 mg on completion of the trip. If you are planning to take these capsules for more than 21 days, please consult your doctor.

You should start to feel better within a few days. If you have been given Doxycycline capsules for acne it may be a few weeks before you start to see an improvement. If your infection gets worse or you do not start to feel better within a few days (except for acne), or a new infection develops, go back and see your doctor.

Treatment of Rocky Mountain spotted fever:

- Adults: 100 mg every 12 hours.
- Children weighing less than 45 kg: 2.2 mg/kg bodyweight given twice a day. Children weighing 45 kg 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 too many Doxycycline capsules than you should not:

- If you take too many Doxycycline capsules contact your doctor or nearest hospital immediately. Always take the labelled medicine package with you, whether there are any evidence of clinical improvement.
- Minimum course of treatment is 5-7 days.
- If you stop taking Doxycycline capsules:

  - 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.

Possible side effects

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

Stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following serious side effects after taking this medicine. Although they are very rare, the symptoms can be severe:

- Sudden weakness, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, fever, swelling of eyes, face or lips, rash or itching (especially affecting the whole body).
- Urticaria, loss of appetite, severe, persistent or bloody diarrhoea (this may occur; the symptoms can be severe.
- Discolouration and/or lack of growth of teeth
- Darker patches on your skin.
- Yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), inflammation of the pancreas
- Increased heart rate.
- Low blood pressure.
- Pericarditis (inflammation affecting the heart)
- Nausea, vomiting, pain in the upper abdomen
- Stomach pain and diarrhoea.
- Aches in the joints or muscles.
- Increased pressure in the skull (severe headache with change in vision).
- Increased heart rate.
- Nausea, vomiting, pain in the upper abdomen.
- Stomach pain and diarrhoea.
- Difficulty in swallowing, sore or painful tongue or mouth.
- Vomiting, nausea, fever in children.
- Urticaria, loss of appetite, severe, persistent or bloody diarrhoea (this may occur; the symptoms can be severe.
- Discolouration and/or lack of growth of teeth
- Darker patches on your skin.
- Yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), inflammation of the pancreas
- Increased heart rate.
- Low blood pressure.
- Pericarditis (inflammation affecting the heart)

Common:

- Headache.
- Vomiting.
- Diarrhoea.
- Nausea.
- Changes in taste.
- Convulsions.
- Inflammation of the bowel.
- Soreness and itching of the rectal and/or genital area.
- Increased levels of urine in the blood.
- Yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), inflammation of the pancreas.
- Sore throat.
- Headache.
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