



**BC Centre for Disease Control**  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

655 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

604.707.2443  
604.707.2441

[www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

Clinical Prevention Services –  
STI Control

604.707.5600  
604.707.5604

[www.SmartSexResource.com](http://www.SmartSexResource.com)

## Doxycycline

Doxycycline is an antibiotic taken by mouth for the treatment of certain sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

### Allergies

- Tell your healthcare provider if you have an allergy to any **tetracycline antibiotics** such as tetracycline or minocycline.

### Pregnancy and Chest/Breastfeeding

- Doxycycline is **not** safe to take during pregnancy.
- Doxycycline should be avoided during chest/breastfeeding because of the unknown exposure effects to infants. Consult your healthcare provider.

### CAUTION

- **Drug Interactions:** Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any prescription, non-prescription, herbal, or recreational products. Not all individual drug interactions are listed in this document.
- Doxycycline can make your skin more sensitive and you may get a sunburn. Avoid exposure to sunlight or artificial UV rays (sunlamps or tanning beds). **Use sunscreen** and wear protective clothing if you will be out in the sun.
- **Do not take iron supplements, calcium supplements, aluminum and magnesium containing antacids or bismuth subsalicylates** (Pepto Bismol®) at the same time as doxycycline. Take doxycycline 2 hours before or 6 hours after taking these products.
- **Doxycycline has the potential to worsen symptoms of myasthenia gravis.** If you have myasthenia gravis (a neuromuscular disorder), please consult with your healthcare provider before taking doxycycline.
- Advise your healthcare provider if you have a history of yeast infections.
- **Do not take the following medications with doxycycline:**
  - **Acitretin** (Soriatane®), **isotretinoin** (Accutane Roche®, Clarus®, Epuris®), and **alitretinoin** (Toctino®, Hanzema™)

### Side Effects

- You may experience diarrhea, nausea, sudden and severe abdominal pain, vomiting, headache, skinrash, photosensitivity (increased sensitivity to the sun).

## Doxycycline

### Instructions for Taking

- Take medication with food to avoid stomach upset.
- Do not crush, chew, or open capsule.
- Swallow medication whole with a full glass of water, and stand/sit upright for at least 30 minutes afterwards.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is close to your next dose, skip the dose and resume your usual dosing time. Do not take a double dose.

### Storage Instructions

- Store at room temperature between 15° and 30°C.
- Protect from light, heat, and moisture.
- Do not use medications beyond the labeled expiry date.
- Keep away from the reach of children.

### Special Instructions

- Do not have sex until:
  - You have completed your treatment or as advised by your healthcare provider, **and**
  - Your sex partner(s) have also been treated, **and** one week has passed since the start of their treatment, even if their test results are negative.
- You will need retreatment if you have sex with an untreated partner, or if you have sex before either you or your partner's treatment is complete. Please discuss with your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions or need more information, please visit [www.smartsexresource.com](http://www.smartsexresource.com) or contact your healthcare provider.