



**BC Centre for Disease Control**  
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## Metronidazole

Metronidazole is an antibiotic taken by mouth for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis (BV) or certain sexually transmitted infections (STI) e.g. trichomoniasis

### Allergies

- Tell your healthcare provider if you have an allergy to metronidazole (Flagyl®).

### Pregnancy and Chest/Breastfeeding

- Metronidazole may be used during the first trimester (first three months) of pregnancy only after discussing this with your healthcare provider, and during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.
- Metronidazole may be used during chest/breastfeeding, depending on the dose prescribed. If you are prescribed a single 2 gram dose of metronidazole, pump and discard breastmilk for 12-24 hours after your dose to allow the medication to leave your body.

### CAUTION

- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have any liver, blood, or neurological disorders.**
- **Do not take alcohol or alcohol-containing medications (e.g., Nyquil®) 12 hours before a dose, during treatment, and 24-48 hours after a dose to prevent adverse effects** (flushing, headache, nausea, vomiting, cramps, very fast or uneven heartbeat, fainting).
- **Please notify your healthcare provider if you have any pre-existing heart conditions or arrhythmias.**
- **Do not take the following medication while taking metronidazole:**
  - **Antiarrhythmic:** dronedarone (Multaq®)
  - **Antipsychotic:** pimozide (Orap®), ziprasidone (Zeldox®)
  - **Alcoholism treatment:** disulfiram (Antabuse®)
  - **HIV medication:** lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®) oral solution; tipranavir (Aptivus®)
  - **Parasitic worm treatment:** mebendazole (Vermox®)
  - **Oral Typhoid vaccine** (Vivotif®)
- **Drug Interactions:** Please note that individual drug interactions are no longer listed in this document. If you are taking any prescription, non-prescription, herbal, or recreational products, please discuss with your healthcare provider.

## Metronidazole

### Side Effects

- You may experience diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, indigestion, unpleasant metallic taste in the mouth, and darkened urine.
- If you experience any neurological disorders such as seizures, confusion, dizziness, headache, weakness, numbness or pain in your extremities, or transient visual problems, contact your healthcare provider immediately and do not drive or operate machinery.
- If you experience any allergic or skin reactions such as rash or itchiness, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

### Instructions for Taking

- Metronidazole may be taken with food to reduce stomach upset
- 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°C and 30°C.
- Protect from light, heat, and moisture.
- Do not use medications beyond the printed expiry date.
- Keep away from the reach of children.

### Special Instructions

#### Treatment of bacterial vaginosis:

- If you are a female with female partners, it is recommended that your partner(s) be tested for bacterial vaginosis and treated if positive.

#### Treatment of trichomoniasis:

- Do not have sex until:
  - One week after your one-dose treatment, or until you have completed your 7 day treatment, 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 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 further information, please visit [www.smartsexresource.com](http://www.smartsexresource.com) or contact your healthcare provider.