



## DOXYCYCLINE

November 2001

---

**BRAND NAMES:** *Vibramycin, Doxychel, Vibra-Tabs, Doryx*

### **REASONS FOR USE:**

1. Doxycycline, a tetracycline derivative antibiotic, interferes with the growth of susceptible microorganisms that cause infections.
2. It is used in the treatment of Lyme disease, respiratory tract infections, genito-urinary tract infections, severe acne, rickettsial diseases, and eye infections (*including chlamydial conjunctivitis*); it is also used against other microorganisms sensitive to tetracycline. It is also used for treatment of traveler's diarrhea.
3. Doxycycline is a form of tetracycline antibiotic that has a longer duration of action and is more stable with food than tetracycline.

### **HOW TO TAKE THE MEDICATION:**

1. Swallow the capsules or tablets with a glass of water to avoid irritation of the esophagus.
2. If you are taking liquid doxycycline, remember to shake the bottle well before measuring out your dose.
3. It should not be taken within 1/2 hour of bedtime to avoid irritation of the esophagus.

### **WHEN TO TAKE THE MEDICATION:**

1. Closely follow the medication schedule prescribed for you.
2. Doxycycline may be taken with or without food. However, if stomach upset occurs, it should be taken with food.
3. Doxycycline is best taken at evenly spaced intervals.

### **DRUG INTERACTION:**

1. Doxycycline should **not** be taken at the **same time** as antacids, laxatives, iron, zinc or calcium supplements. Allow one hour before or two hours after consuming these before taking a dose of doxycycline.
2. Because of the potential for drug interaction and/or the need for dose adjustment be sure to tell your physician and pharmacist about other prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially anticoagulants (*Coumadin*), other antibiotics, iron or calcium supplements, or antacids.

### **MEDICATION STORAGE:**

1. Store doxycycline in its original, labeled container and keep the container tightly closed.
2. Keep the medication in a dry place, out of a child's reach.
3. If you are using the liquid (*suspension*) form of doxycycline, store it in the refrigerator.

### **MISSED DOSE(S):**

1. If you do miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it and the remaining doses at evenly spaced intervals throughout the day. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at its regularly scheduled time.
2. If you miss more than one (1) dose, speak with your physician for further instructions.
3. Do not take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

### **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:**

1. If skin rash or mouth sores develop, after taking doxycycline, discontinue doxycycline and contact your physician **immediately**.
2. If rectal itching or soreness, vaginal itching or discharge, or diarrhea occur, contact your physician as soon as possible.
3. Tetracycline derivatives make you more sensitive to sunlight. Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning equipment and use protective sunscreens.
4. If you experience nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, dizziness, headaches or difficulty in swallowing while taking doxycycline, tell your physician.

### **OTHER PRECAUTIONS:**

1. It is important for you to take doxycycline for as long as your physician has prescribed. If there is any doxycycline remaining after your treatment is completed **discard it; outdated or deteriorated** tetracycline has been reported to cause kidney damage.
2. **Pregnant women, nursing mothers and children should not use tetracycline derivatives (such as doxycycline) because they can interfere with proper bone and teeth formation in the young.**
3. Finish all of the medication unless your physician instructs otherwise, even if you feel better before the medication is used up.
4. Do not take any unused doxycycline for another infection unless prescribed to do so by your physician.
5. Oral contraceptives may not be completely reliable while taking doxycycline. Consider the use of alternative methods of birth control.

If you have any questions about your medications, ask your physician, nurse or pharmacist.

*doxycycl(3/9, rev 11/01)*  
*anti-infectives disk #108*