

# ANTIBIOTICS

**Doxycycline  
Minocycline  
Tetracycline**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE



## ABOUT your medicine

**Doxycycline, Minocycline and Tetracycline are used to treat bacterial infections. They are available as oral medicine. Tetracycline is also available as eye and skin ointments.**

## HOW should I take/use the medicine?

Your doctor will determine the amount of medicine you should take based on the severity of your condition. Take this medicine in the dose prescribed by your doctor.

Consult your pharmacist if you are not sure of the correct way to take your medicine.

### Oral Capsule:

Take your medicine with a full glass of water. These medicines are best taken on an empty stomach (either 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals). However, if the medicine upsets your stomach, you can take it with food.

Do not take milk, other dairy products, antacids or iron within 2 hours of taking these medicines.

The course of antibiotics should be completed even if you feel better after a few days. Inadequate treatment can lead to recurrence of infection or result in the development of resistance to treatment

Take the doses at evenly spaced times.

### Eye Ointment:

- Wash your hands.
- Pull the lower eyelid away from the eye to form a pouch. Apply the ointment. A 1-cm strip of ointment is usually enough unless otherwise directed by your doctor. Gently close the eyes and keep them closed for 1 to 2 minutes.
- To keep the medicine as germ-free as possible, do not allow the applicator tip to touch any surface (including the eye).
- After using the eye ointment, wipe the applicator tip with a clean tissue and keep the tube tightly closed.

### Skin Ointment:

- Keep using this medicine for the full time of treatment to help clear the infection completely.
- Do not get this medicine on your clothing as it may stain.

*Keep all medication out of reach of children  
Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required*

- Do not get this medicine in the eyes.
- Before applying this medicine, thoroughly wash the affected area with warm water and soap, rinse well and dry completely.
- After applying this medicine, you may cover the treated area with gauze dressing if you wish.

## What are the possible SIDE-EFFECTS of the medicine?

Common side-effects include nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

These medicines may cause your skin to be more sensitive to the sun. Exposure to sunlight may cause skin rash, itching or redness of the skin or a severe burn.

These medicines can cause discolouration of teeth in some children and infants. Check with your doctor if you notice this effect or if you have any questions about it.

## What PRECAUTIONS should I take?

- Inform your doctor and pharmacist if you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.
- You must tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing or widespread itchy skin rashes.
- Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment.
- Do not give these medicines to infants or children 8 years of age and younger unless directed by your doctor as they may discolour teeth permanently.
- Check with your doctor if your symptoms do not improve within a few days (or a few weeks or months for acne patients) or if they become worse.
- Stay out of direct sunlight especially between 10am and 3pm. Wear protective clothing and also apply a sun block product that has a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15.

Birth control pills containing oestrogen may not work if you are on them while you are taking these medicines. You should use a different or additional means of birth control when you are taking these medicines.

If you are taking minocycline, you may become dizzy, light-headed or unsteady. Make sure you know how you react to this medicine before you drive, use machines or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or not alert.

## How should I STORE the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.