

AURORA MEDICAL SERVICES
1001 Broadway, Suite 320 · Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 957-0990 or toll-free (866) 632-6622, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Emergencies only, after hours/weekends: (800) 726-5472

DOXYCYCLINE FACT SHEET

WHAT IS IT? Doxycycline belongs to the general family of medicines called antibiotics. They are given to help the body overcome infection.

BEFORE USING THIS MEDICINE YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR CLINICIAN:

- If you know you are allergic to doxycycline or tetracycline.
- If you know or suspect you may be pregnant. Doxycycline may cause discoloration in the toothbuds of the fetus and may slow the growth of teeth and bones if taken during pregnancy.
- If you have kidney or liver disease.
- If you are taking any of the following medicines: antacids (Maalox, Mylanta, Roloids, TUMS); iron pills, other antibiotics, anti-coagulants
- If you are taking birth control pills: Studies suggest that some oral antibiotics may make birth control pills less effective. We recommend you abstain from intercourse or use a back-up method of birth control while taking the medication. If you miss any birth control pills while you are taking antibiotics, it is especially important that you use a back-up method of birth control (such as foam and condoms) so you do not risk getting pregnant. If you develop breakthrough bleeding, call the clinic.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING THIS MEDICINE (*Keep out of reach of children*):

- Take one tablet every 12 hours for the number of days prescribed. Take with food and drink a large glass of water to prevent burning of your stomach or esophagus.
- ***Take all the medicines as directed***, even if you begin to feel better after a few days. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible.
- We strongly recommend that you do not have intercourse while you are taking the medicine. If you are being treated for a STD infection, your partner(s) must also be seen by a physician or clinic. Unless your partner is treated, he will re-infect you.

PRECAUTIONS WHILE TAKING THIS MEDICINE:

- Do not take iron preparations (also included in some multivitamin tablets) within two to three hours of the time you take doxycycline. They will prevent the medicine from working as well.
- Avoid too much sun since some people who take doxycycline become more sensitive to the sun than they are normally. You may still be more sensitive to the sun for 1-2 weeks after you stop taking the medication.
- Before having surgery (including dental surgery) with a general anesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking doxycycline.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS MEDICINE:

- Call the clinic if you experience: - *Skin rash; Hives; Itching; Wheezing or trouble breathing*
- Other side effects may occur that do not require medical attention. However if they continue or you are worried about them, call the clinic:
 - Cramps or burning of the stomach
 - Diarrhea
 - Sore tongue or mouth
 - Nausea or vomiting
- In some people, doxycycline may cause the tongue to become darkened or discolored. These changes are usually temporary and go away when you stop taking the medicine.
- Yeast organisms in the intestines or vagina may overgrow while taking this medicine, causing some of the above symptoms. Eat yogurt with live cultures daily and for about ten days after completing the antibiotic. However, if symptoms persist, consult the clinic as you may need to take vaginal or oral medicine to suppress yeast growth.

Call our office if you have any questions about your medicines.