

Chlamydia DOXYCYCLINE Treatment Patient Instructions

You are being treated for chlamydia. Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having any kind of sex (oral, vaginal, or anal) with a person who already has it. Based on your positive result, you have been exposed. The good news is that it's easily treated.

STDs often have no symptoms. When there are symptoms, they can include:

- Discharge from the penis, vagina, or anus
- Pain when you urinate (pee) or when having sex
- Pain in your testicles (balls), pelvis, or the lower part of your belly

You are being given a medicine called Doxycycline to treat your chlamydia. These are instructions for taking Doxycycline. People can have more than one STD at the same time, Doxycycline will not cure other infections.

The medicine is very safe. However, DO NOT TAKE IT if any of the following are true:

- You have fever
- You are female and have any of the following symptoms; lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting.
- You have ever had a bad reaction such as a rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking Doxycycline or other antibiotics. People who are allergic to some antibiotics may be allergic to other types of antibiotics. If you do have allergies to antibiotics, you should check with your healthcare provider before taking this medicine.
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- You are currently taking other prescription medication.
- If you are pregnant

If any of these circumstances exist, or if you are not sure, **DO NOT** take this medication. Instead, you should talk to your healthcare provider as soon as possible. Your health care provider will find the best treatment for you.

If you are pregnant, it is NOT safe to take the Doxycycline, Doxycycline should be replaced with a medication called Azithromycin. It is also recommended to consult your health care provider.

How to take the medicine:

- There are instructions for taking the Doxycycline on the vial containing the medication. Follow those instructions.
- Take the medicines with food and plenty of water. This will decrease the chances of having an upset stomach and will increase the amount of medication your body absorbs.
- Each Doxycycline pill contains 100 mg of the medicine, take one pill each morning and pill each evening until all 14 pills are gone. Taking Doxycycline, as instructed, will cure chlamydia.
- Do NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Rolaids, or Maalox) for one hour before or two hours after taking the Doxycycline pills.
- Do not share or give these medicines to anyone else.

Possible side effects (these are not all of the side effects that may occur):

- Slightly upset stomach
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Gas
- Yeast infection
- Extreme sensitivity to the sun may occur with prolonged exposure to sunlight or tanning equipment and may cause skin rashes or other side effects.

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately if you have signs or symptoms that might be related to a very bad side effect including, but not limited to:

- Difficulty breathing/tightness in the chest
- Closing of your throat
- Swelling of your lips or tongue
- Hives (bumps or welts on your skin that itch intensely)

Now that you have your medication, **do not have sexual contact (oral, vaginal, anal) until you have completed the medication as instructed.** It takes seven days for the medicine to cure chlamydia. If you have sex during those first seven days you can still pass the infection on to your sex partners and you can also get re-infected yourself.

Next steps:

- If you have any other sex partners, tell them you are getting treated for chlamydia, so they can get treated too.
- If you think you have symptoms of chlamydia infection and they do not go away within seven days after taking this medicine, please go to a healthcare provider for more testing and treatment.
- People who are infected with chlamydia once are very likely to get it again, it is a good idea to get tested after each partner.
- If you have any questions about the medicine, gonorrhea or other STDs, please call your local health department.
- Use a barrier method (condoms and dental dam) to prevent future infections. Free condoms are available at www.KnoWyo.org.