316mm

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Doxycycline 20 mg film-coated tablets

doxycycline

(referred to as "Doxycycline tablets" throughout the text)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet.You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your dentist, doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any of the side effects, talk to your dentist, doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Doxycycline tablets are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Doxycycline tablets
3. How to take Doxycycline tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Doxycycline tablets
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Doxycycline tablets are and what they are used for

Doxycycline belongs to a group of medicines called tetracyclines. Tetracyclines are a type of antibiotic although the very small dose of doxycycline contained in Doxycycline tablets is not high enough for Doxycycline tablets to act as an antibiotic.

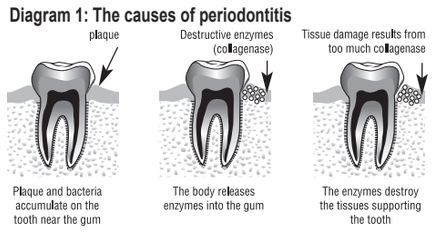
Doxycycline tablets are used in the treatment of periodontitis (a condition of the gums which can cause teeth to become loose or fall out).

The standard treatment for periodontitis is a scaling and root planing carried out by your dentist or dental hygienist.
Doxycycline tablets are then prescribed by your dentist as an additional treatment. The oral hygiene routine explained by your dentist or dental hygienist should continue at the same time.

The periodontium, which is made up of collagen fibres, is the part of the gum that gives support to each tooth and it is this part that is affected by periodontitis. Periodontitis is caused by the presence of bacteria at the gum line which can cause inflammation and infection of the gum.

The body's immune system makes special cells to fight the gum infection. The body releases enzymes into the gums which break down the collagen fibres around the tooth and allows these special cells to get to the site of infection. Unfortunately, although the enzymes are part of the body's own defence system, they actually damage the gum. This can cause teeth to become loose or even fall out. Diagram 1 explains the causes of periodontitis.

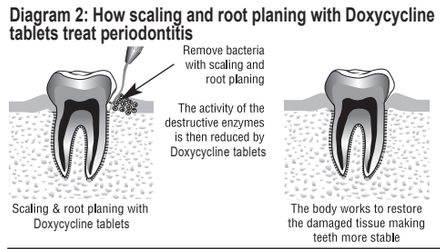
Diagram 1: The causes of periodontitis



Doxycycline tablets reduces the effect of the collagenase enzymes. This can make your gums healthier and increase the stability of your affected teeth.

Diagram 2 explains how scaling and root planing with the addition of Doxycycline tablets treats periodontitis.

Diagram 2: How scaling and root planing with Doxycycline tablets treat periodontitis



2. What you need to know before you take Doxycycline tablets

Do not take Doxycycline tablets:
- if you are allergic to doxycycline (or any other tetracycline antibiotic e.g. oxytetracycline, tetracycline, chlortetracycline, demeclocycline or minocycline) or any of the ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- if you are planning to become pregnant
- if you are breast-feeding
- if you have achlorhydria (lack of acid in the stomach).

If any of the above applies to you, or if you are not sure, speak to your dentist, doctor or pharmacist before you take Doxycycline tablets.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your dentist, doctor or pharmacist before taking Doxycycline tablets if:
- you have porphyria (a disease which causes stomach pain, constipation, changes in the colour of urine, skin rashes and disturbed behaviour)
- you have severe diarrhoea (see Section 4 Possible side effects)
- you have myasthenia gravis (a rare muscle weakness disorder)
- you suffer from phototoxicity (skin rashes caused by sunlight). Stop taking Doxycycline tablets if this happens and consult your doctor
- you have liver problems or are taking medication which may damage your liver (see Section 4 Possible side effects)
- you have thrush (a yeast infection caused by Candida)
- you have systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). An allergic condition which causes joint pain, skin rashes and fever (see Section 4 Possible side effects).

Children and adolescents
Do not give this medicine to children up to 12 years of age.

Other medicines and Doxycycline tablets
Tell your dentist, doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

- aluminium containing products (used to neutralise acid in your stomach)
- zinc containing products (used to treat low zinc levels)
- calcium containing products (used to treat low calcium levels or as an antacid)
- anti-coagulant medication for example warfarin (used to thin the blood)
- penicillin or rifampicin (antibiotics to treat infections)
- antacids (used to neutralise acid in your stomach)
- iron containing products (used to treat low iron levels)
- bismuth containing products (used to treat stomach ulcers)
- sucralfate-containing products (used to treat stomach ulcers)
- activated charcoal (used to treat poisoning)
- colestyramine (used to reduce cholesterol levels and prevent heart disease, to treat itching due to liver problems and diarrhoea)
- didanosine tablets (used to treat HIV)
- quinapril (used to treat high blood pressure or heart failure)
- barbiturates, carbamazepine, phenytoin and primidone (medication to control epilepsy)
- ciclosporins (used to suppress your immune system after an organ transplant)
- methoxyflurane (a type of anaesthetic)
- isotretinoin (used to treat acne)
- sulfonylurea agents (used to treat diabetes, e.g. chlorpropamide, glibenclamide, gliclazide, glimepiride, glipizide or gliquidone)
- oral contraceptives (used to prevent pregnancy).

Doxycycline tablets with food, drink and alcohol
Doxycycline tablets should be taken at least one hour before meals.

Food containing large amounts of calcium (e.g. milk, dairy products and calcium-containing fruit juices) should be avoided until at least 2 to 3 hours after taking Doxycycline tablets.

Consult with your doctor before taking Doxycycline tablets if you regularly drink large amounts of alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your dentist, doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Doxycycline tablets should not be used during pregnancy or if you are breast-feeding. Taking Doxycycline tablets during pregnancy may result in permanent discolouration of your child's teeth.

Doxycycline tablets passes into the milk of breast-feeding mothers and therefore you should not breast-feed whilst taking this medicine.

There are no clinical data regarding the potential effect of Doxycycline tablets on fertility.

316mm

Driving and using machines
Taking Doxycycline tablets may make you feel sick or dizzy.
If you are affected you should not drive or use machines until the effect has worn off.

Doxycycline tablets contain lactose
If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

3. How to take Doxycycline tablets

Always take this medicine exactly as your dentist, doctor or pharmacist has told you to. Check with your dentist, doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The recommended dose is one tablet in the morning and one in the evening.

Doxycycline tablets should be taken at least one hour before going to bed for the night and at least one hour before meals. Try and take the medication at the same times each day.

The tablets should be swallowed with a drink of water in the sitting or standing position followed by plenty of fluid. Do not lie down immediately after taking the tablet.

Doxycycline tablets are usually taken for a minimum of 3 months and can be taken for up to 9 months at a time. It is important that you continue to take Doxycycline tablets until your dentist tells you to stop.

If you take more Doxycycline tablets than you should
If you accidentally take too many tablets, or someone else takes any of your medicine, you should tell your doctor at once or contact the nearest accident and emergency department. Show any left-over medicines or the empty packet to the doctor.

If you forget to take Doxycycline tablets
Do not worry. If you forget to take a dose, just take the next dose as normal. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet. Then go on as before.

If you stop taking Doxycycline tablets
Complete the prescribed course unless otherwise directed by your dentist or doctor.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your dentist, doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If any of the side effects listed below occur, contact your doctor as soon as possible:
• you have a severe allergic reaction which includes sudden wheeziness, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, sudden swelling, fever, skin rash or itching (see Section 2 What you need to know before you take Doxycycline tablets)
• you have diarrhoea which is watery or contains blood due to colitis (inflammation of the intestines which can cause stomach pain, diarrhoea and other symptoms) and pseudomembranous colitis (infection of the intestines which can cause stomach pain, fever and diarrhoea) (see Section 2 What you need to know before you take Doxycycline tablets)
• you have the Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction which causes fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, and skin rash that is usually self-limiting. This occurs shortly after starting doxycycline treatment for infections with spirochete such as Lyme disease.

Other side effects are:
Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):
• headache
• common cold
• flu like symptoms (such as fever).

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):
• indigestion (heartburn)
• feeling sick
• diarrhoea
• rash
• sinusitis (inflammation of the nasal passages), coughing and bronchitis
• tooth abscess
• sore throat and sinus headache
• toothache, pain of any sort, joint and back pain
• period pains
• infection (e.g. thrush).

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):
• muscle and gum pain.

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):
• vaginal and anal thrush (causing soreness and/or itching of the rectal and/or genital area)
• anxiety.

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):
• dizziness
• stomach pain, constipation, dry mouth and tooth discolouration
• skin becoming sensitive to sunlight
• weakness
• hives and itching.

Side effects with frequency which cannot be estimated from the available data:
• separation or loosening of a fingernail or toenail from its nail bed following exposure to sunlight or ultraviolet rays.

Other side effects that have occurred in people taking other tetracyclines similar to Doxycycline tablets are:
• Blood disorders. These are due to an imbalance in numbers of different cell types in the blood. Symptoms may include tiredness, easy bruising, nose bleeds or susceptibility to infection. Porphyria (a disease which causes stomach pain, constipation, changes in the colour of urine, skin rashes and disturbed behaviour) has been reported.
• Lack or loss of appetite, inflammation of the tongue and difficulty in swallowing.
• Inflammation and/or ulcers of the gullet (food pipe). This can be avoided by taking Doxycycline tablets in an upright position with water (see Section 3 How to take Doxycycline tablets).
• Increase in blood urea (this is detected by a blood test).
• If you suffer from a disease called systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), an allergic condition which causes joint pain, skin rashes and fever you may notice your condition gets worse.
• Severe headaches together with disturbed vision. This may mean you have increased pressure in the brain.
• Problem with your liver (this may cause yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes and/or severe stomach pains) (see Section 2 What you need to know before you take Doxycycline tablets).
• Stevens-Johnson syndrome (a serious illness which causes blistering of the skin, lining of the mouth, throat, eyes and genitals), flaking or peeling of the skin.

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your dentist, doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Doxycycline tablets

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use Doxycycline tablets after the expiry date {EXP mm yyyy} which is stated on the white container or blister pack.The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25ºC. Do not remove the tablets from the container or blister pack until you are ready to take the medicine. When tablets are supplied in a white container, always ensure the desiccant is returned to the container, and the container tightly closed after each dose is removed. Do not swallow the desiccant, and should this occur, contact your dentist or doctor immediately.

Do not take Doxycycline tablets if you notice the appearance of the tablets has changed in any way.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Doxycycline tablets contain
The active ingredient in this medicine is doxycycline hyclate.

Each tablet contains 23.08 mg doxycycline hyclate equivalent to 20 mg doxycycline. The other ingredients are:
• tablet core: microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate
• film-coating: lactose monohydrate, hypromellose (E464), titanium dioxide (E171) and triacetin.

What Doxycycline tablets look like and contents of the pack
Doxycycline tablets are white to off-white round tablets imprinted on one side with PS-20.

Doxycycline tablets are supplied in either blister packs contained in a carton (28 or 56 tablets) or in a white container, with a child resistant closure (60 tablets). Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer
The Marketing Authorisation Holder is: Universal Medicines Limited, 83-85 Baker Street, London, W1U 6AG, United Kingdom

Doxycycline tablets are manufactured by: Chanelle Medical Unlimited Company, Dublin Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway, H62 FH90, Ireland.

The information in this leaflet applies only to Doxycycline tablets. If you have any questions or you are not sure about anything, ask your dentist, doctor or a pharmacist.

This leaflet was last revised: March 2026

DOX-UK-PIL-02