



## **Doxycycline**

1. Oral doxycycline should be taken on an empty stomach (1 hour before meals or 2 hours after meals) with a full glass of water.
2. Doxycycline may increase your risk of photosensitivity (sensitivity to sun exposure which can result in sunburns). Avoid sun exposure and wear a daily sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher while taking this medication.
3. Sun exposure must be avoided in patients applying topical retinoids (Atralin, Epiduo, Differin, Retin-A, tretinoin) in combination with doxycycline. The combination of topical retinoids and doxycycline may increase risk of phototoxicity. Sunscreen with a high SPF along with protective clothing, such as hats, must be worn during sun exposure to prevent severe sunburns.
4. Doxycycline has been assigned to Pregnancy Category D by the FDA. Pregnant women, nursing women or those trying to become pregnancy should not take this medication.
5. Oral contraceptive pills (birth control pills) may be less effective while taking doxycycline. It is recommended that you use two forms of birth control while taking doxycycline and for 2 months after stopping doxycycline.
6. This medication should not be taken by children with developing teeth or children younger than 8 years of age, as it may cause permanent discoloration of the teeth.
7. Doxycycline can increase the effects of some medications such as insulin, lithium, digoxin, methotrexate, Coumadin and Warfarin. If you are taking any of these medications you may have to adjust your dose while on doxycycline.
8. The following medications should be avoided while taking doxycycline: isotretinoin, penicillin, methotrexate, theophylline, bile acid binding resins, Pepto-Bismol, Pepcid, Zantac or other acid reducers.
9. One study has shown an increased prevalence of inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's Disease or ulcerative colitis) in patients that have taken doxycycline. Therefore, doxycycline could slightly increase your risk of these diseases.
10. It is important to contact the office at (850) 897-7546 if you develop fever, rash, extreme fatigue, swollen joints or severe diarrhea that lasts longer than 12 hours.