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Gentian Violet

Generic name: Gentian Violet [*JEN-shun-VYE-oh-let*]

Drug class: [Topical anti-infectives](#)

[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com. Last updated on Dec 26, 2023.

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Uses of Gentian Violet:

- It is used to help lower the chance of [infection](#) from [minor cuts](#), [scrapes](#), burns, or [insect bites](#).

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take Gentian Violet?

- If you are allergic to [gentian violet](#); any part of gentian violet; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the [allergy](#) and what signs you had.

This medicine may interact with other drugs or health problems.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, [vitamins](#)) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take gentian violet with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take Gentian Violet?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take gentian violet. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Do not put on open or deep wounds, animal bites, or severe burns.
- This medicine may stain clothing or skin.
- This medicine may cause harm if swallowed. If gentian violet is swallowed, call a doctor or poison control center right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

How is this medicine (Gentian Violet) best taken?

Use gentian violet as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Use as you have been told, even if your signs get better.
- Do not take gentian violet by mouth. Use on your skin only. Keep out of your mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).
- Wash your hands before and after use. Do not wash your hands after use if putting this on your hand.
- Clean affected part before use. Make sure to dry well.
- Put a thin layer on the affected part.
- If putting on with a cotton swab, put on affected part as your doctor or the label tells you.
- Do not use coverings (bandages, dressings) unless told to do so by the doctor.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Put on a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not put on 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

 [Detailed Gentian violet topical dosage information](#)

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like [rash](#); hives; [itching](#); red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without [fever](#); [wheezing](#); tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

 [Gentian violet topical side effects](#) (more detail)

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What are some other side effects of Gentian Violet?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Skin irritation.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your

doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at <https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

If OVERDOSE is suspected:

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

How do I store and/or throw out Gentian Violet?

- Store at room temperature.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about gentian violet, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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Related treatment guides



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Further information

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability	
	Rx and/or OTC
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
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