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# Cyproheptadine

**Generic name:** cyproheptadine [ *SIP-roe-HEP-ta-deen* ]

**Brand name:** Periactin

**Dosage forms:** oral syrup (2 mg/5 mL), oral tablet (4 mg)

**Drug class:** [Antihistamines](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Sep 19, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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## What is cyproheptadine?

Cyproheptadine is an antihistamine that reduces the effects of natural chemical histamine in the body. Histamine can produce symptoms of sneezing, itching, watery eyes, and runny nose.

Cyproheptadine is used to treat sneezing, runny nose, itching, red or watery eyes, and other symptoms of seasonal allergies (hay fever). Cyproheptadine is also used to treat other conditions such as eczema or skin reactions to [insect bites](#).

Cyproheptadine is sometimes used to treat certain types of headaches, including migraines.

Cyproheptadine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Cyproheptadine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Cyproheptadine may cause serious side effects. Stop using cyproheptadine and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- tremor, seizure (convulsions);
- confusion, hallucinations;
- little or no urination;
- fast or pounding heartbeats;
- easy bruising or bleeding;
- ringing in your ears; or

- pale or yellowed skin, dark colored urine, fever, weakness.

**Common side effects of cyproheptadine may include:**

- [drowsiness](#), dizziness;
- [dry mouth](#), nose, or throat;
- [constipation](#);
- blurred vision; or
- feeling restless or excited (especially in children).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Cyproheptadine side effects](#) (more detail)

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## Warnings

You should not use cyproheptadine if you have narrow-angle glaucoma, a [stomach ulcer](#) or obstruction, an [enlarged prostate](#), urination problems, or if you are having an asthma attack. You also should not use cyproheptadine if you are breast-feeding a baby, if you are elderly, or if you have a debilitating disease.

**Do not use cyproheptadine if you have used an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days**, such as [isocarboxazid](#), [linezolid](#), [methylene blue](#) injection, [phenelzine](#), [rasagiline](#), [selegiline](#), or [tranylcypromine](#).

You should not use antihistamine medication to make a child sleepy.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use cyproheptadine if you are allergic to it, or if:

- you have narrow-angle glaucoma;
- you have a stomach ulcer or obstruction;
- you have an enlarged prostate or urination problems;
- you are breast-feeding a baby;
- you are having an asthma attack; or
- you are elderly or have a debilitating disease.

**Do not give this medicine to a newborn or premature baby.** Cyproheptadine is not approved for use by anyone younger than 2 years old.

To make sure cyproheptadine is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- glaucoma;
- a history of asthma;
- [high blood pressure](#);
- [heart disease](#); or
- an overactive thyroid.

Cyproheptadine is not expected to be harmful to an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medicine.

It is not known whether cyproheptadine passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. [Antihistamines](#) may slow breast milk production. You should not breast-feed while using this medicine.

## How should I take cyproheptadine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not use cyproheptadine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Do not give this medicine to a child younger than 2 years old. **You should not use antihistamine medication to make a child sleepy.** Death can occur from the misuse of an antihistamine in very young children.

Measure liquid medicine with the dosing syringe provided, or with a special dose-measuring spoon or medicine cup. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

Tell your doctor if you have any changes in weight. Cyproheptadine doses are based on weight (especially in children and teenagers), and any changes may affect the dose.

This medicine can cause you to have a false positive drug screening test. If you provide a urine sample for drug screening, tell the laboratory staff that you are taking cyproheptadine.

Store in a tightly-closed container at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Cyproheptadine dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose.

**Do not** take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include extreme drowsiness, hallucinations, very dry mouth, dilated pupils, pale or reddish skin,

tingly feeling, vomiting, restlessness (in a child), weak or shallow breathing, or a seizure (convulsions).

## What should I avoid while taking cyproheptadine?

cyproheptadine may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

Drinking alcohol with this medicine can cause side effects.

## What other drugs will affect cyproheptadine?

Taking cyproheptadine with other drugs that make you sleepy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before taking a sleeping pill, narcotic medication, muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety, [depression](#), or seizures.

Other drugs may interact with cyproheptadine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use now and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Cyproheptadine drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does cyproheptadine interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

cyproheptadine

+

Enter a drug name

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## Patient resources

- [Cyproheptadine Tablets patient information](#)
- [Cyproheptadine Syrup](#)

## Professional resources

- [Cyproheptadine Hydrochloride monograph](#)
- [Cyproheptadine \(FDA\)](#)
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## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

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

### Medical Disclaimer

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### DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
<b>Rx</b>	Prescription only	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
<b>N/A</b>	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
	Drug history at FDA	▼

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8.2 / 10

[212 Reviews](#)

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Cyproheptadine Hydrochloride 4 mg (11 10)



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