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# Hexachlorophene

**Generic name:** Hexachlorophene [ *heks-a-KLOR-oh-feen* ]

**Drug class:** [Antiseptic and germicides](#)

[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com. Last updated on Nov 10, 2023.

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## Uses of Hexachlorophene:

- It is used to treat or prevent skin infections.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take Hexachlorophene?

- If you have an [allergy](#) to [hexachlorophene](#) or any other part of hexachlorophene.
- If you are allergic to hexachlorophene; any part of hexachlorophene; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have broken skin or open wounds where the drug will be used.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with hexachlorophene.

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 hexachlorophene 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 Hexachlorophene?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take hexachlorophene. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Do not use coverings (bandages, dressings, make-up) unless told to do so by the doctor.
- You may get sunburned more easily. Avoid sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use [sunscreen](#) and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun.
- Do not use to bathe an infant.
- Do not use as a dressing, wetpack, or lotion.
- Do not use for routine total body bathing.

- Do not use on the mouth, nose, eyes, or vagina.
- This medicine may cause harm if swallowed. If hexachlorophene is swallowed, call a doctor or poison control center right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using hexachlorophene while you are pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

## How is this medicine (Hexachlorophene) best taken?

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

- Do not take hexachlorophene by mouth. Use on your skin only. Keep out of your mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Put on healthy skin only.
- Wash and rinse affected skin with warm water, then pat dry.

### What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Many times hexachlorophene is used on an as needed basis. Do not use more often than told by the doctor.

## 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.
- Very bad skin irritation.
- Very nervous and excitable.
- [Seizures](#).

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**What are some other side effects of Hexachlorophene?**

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 Hexachlorophene?

- 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 hexachlorophene, 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.

## More about hexachlorophene topical

- [Check interactions](#)
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- [Drug class: antiseptic and germicides](#)

## Patient resources

- [Hexachlorophene advanced reading](#)

## Other brands

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## Professional resources

### Other brands

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## Related treatment guides


- [Skin Disinfection, Preoperative](#)
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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**  
 Discontinued

**CSA Schedule\***  
**N/A** Not a controlled drug

**Approval History**  
 Drug history at FDA



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