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2. Cimetidine

Cimetidine

Generic name: cimetidine [*syə-ME-ti-deen*]**Brand names:** [Tagamet HB](#), Tagamet**Dosage forms:** oral liquid (300 mg/5 mL), oral tablet (200 mg; 300 mg; 400 mg; 800 mg)**Drug class:** [H2 antagonists](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on May 20, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is cimetidine?

Cimetidine is a stomach acid reducer that is used to treat and prevent certain types of [stomach ulcer](#). Cimetidine is also used to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), when stomach acid backs up into the esophagus and causes [heartburn](#).

Over-the-counter (nonprescription) cimetidine is used to treat heartburn with sour stomach and acid indigestion, or to prevent these conditions when caused by certain foods or beverages.

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

Cimetidine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) or **a severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning in your eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash that spreads and causes blistering and peeling).

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

- pain when swallowing;
- bloody or tarry stools, cough with bloody mucus or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- changes in mood, anxiety, [agitation](#);
- confusion, hallucinations; or
- breast swelling or tenderness.

Serious side effects may be more likely in older adults and those who are ill or debilitated.

Common side effects of cimetidine may include:

- headache; or
- diarrhea.

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.

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

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Warnings

Follow all directions on your medicine label and package. Tell each of your healthcare providers about all your medical conditions, allergies, and all medicines you use.

Before taking this medicine

Heartburn can mimic early symptoms of a [heart attack](#). **Get emergency medical help if you have** chest pain that spreads to your jaw or shoulder and you feel anxious or light-headed.

You should not use cimetidine if you are allergic to cimetidine or other stomach acid reducers (such as [ranitidine](#), [famotidine](#), Zantac, Axid, and others)

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if cimetidine is safe to use if you have:

- stomach pain, nausea, and vomiting;
- trouble swallowing;
- frequent chest pain;
- heartburn with wheezing;
- unexplained [weight loss](#);
- heartburn lasting longer than 3 months; or
- liver or kidney disease.

Ask a doctor before using this medicine if you are pregnant.

You should not breastfeed while using cimetidine.

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice.

How should I take cimetidine?

Use exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor.

Cimetidine is usually taken with meals or at bedtime.

To prevent heartburn from foods or beverages, take cimetidine within 30 minutes before eating or drinking.

Take this medicine with a full glass of water.

Measure **liquid medicine** carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

It may take up to 8 weeks for an ulcer to heal. Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time, even if your symptoms quickly improve.

Your ulcer may take longer to heal if you smoke cigarettes.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

Do not take over-the-counter cimetidine for longer than 14 days without your doctor's advice.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Detailed Cimetidine dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

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

What should I avoid while taking cimetidine?

Avoid taking other medications within 2 hours before or 2 hours after you take cimetidine. Cimetidine can make it harder for your body to absorb certain medicines you take by mouth.

Ask your doctor before using other stomach acid reducers or antacids, and use only the type your doctor recommends.

What other drugs will affect cimetidine?

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before using cimetidine with any other medications, especially:

- [ketoconazole](#);
- [phenytoin](#);
- [theophylline](#);
- an antidepressant; or
- a blood thinner--warfarin, [Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#);
- heart or blood pressure medicine--[nifedipine](#), [propranolol](#); or
- a sedative--[chlordiazepoxide](#), [diazepam](#).

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect cimetidine, or be made less effective when taken at the same time as cimetidine. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

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

Does cimetidine interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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Frequently asked questions

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Patient resources

Other brands

[Tagamet HB](#)

Professional resources

- [Cimetidine, Cimetidine Hydrochloride monograph](#)
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- [Cimetidine Injection \(FDA\)](#)
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Related treatment guides

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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.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability		
 Rx and/or OTC		
Pregnancy & Lactation		
 Risk data available		
CSA Schedule*		
N/A Not a controlled drug		▼
Approval History		
 Drug history at FDA		▼

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7.7 / 10

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