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## 2. Meloxicam

# Meloxicam

**Generic name:** meloxicam (oral/injection) [ *mel-OKS-i-kam* ]

**Brand names:** [Anjeso](#), [Mobic](#), [Vivlodex](#), [Qmiiz ODT](#)

**Dosage forms:** intravenous dispersion (30 mg/mL), oral capsule (10 mg; 5 mg), oral suspension (7.5 mg/5 mL), ... [show all 4 dosage forms](#)

**Drug class:** [Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sophia Entringer, PharmD](#). Last updated on Aug 22, 2023.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is meloxicam?

Meloxicam is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It works by reducing hormones that cause pain, fever, and inflammation in the body.

Meloxicam is used to relieve pain, tenderness, swelling, and stiffness caused by [osteoarthritis](#) (arthritis caused by a breakdown of the lining of the joints) and [rheumatoid arthritis](#) (arthritis caused by swelling of the lining of the joints).

Meloxicam is also used to relieve the pain, tenderness, swelling, and stiffness caused by [juvenile rheumatoid arthritis](#) (a type of arthritis that affects children) in children 2 years of age and older.

The **Anjeso** brand of this medicine is used to treat moderate to severe pain in adults.

**Vivlodex** is for use only in adults. **Qmiiz ODT** is for adults and children weighing at least 132 pounds (60 kilograms).

## Warnings

Meloxicam can increase your risk of fatal heart attack or stroke, especially if you use it long term or take high doses, or if you have heart disease. Even people without heart disease or risk factors could have a stroke or heart attack while taking this medicine.

Do not use this medicine just before or after heart bypass surgery (coronary artery bypass graft, or CABG).

Get emergency medical help if you have chest pain, weakness, shortness of breath, slurred speech, or problems with vision or balance.

Meloxicam may also cause stomach or intestinal bleeding, which can be fatal. These conditions can occur without warning while you are using this medicine, especially in older adults.

Call your doctor at once if you have symptoms of stomach bleeding such as black, bloody, or tarry stools, or coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds.

Avoid smoking and drinking alcohol as they also increase your risk of stomach bleeding.

## Before taking this medicine

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You should not use meloxicam if you are allergic to it, or if you ever had an [asthma](#) attack or severe allergic reaction after taking [aspirin](#) or an NSAID.

To make sure meloxicam is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart disease, [high blood pressure](#), [high cholesterol](#), diabetes, or if you smoke;
- a heart attack, stroke, or blood clot;
- ulcers or stomach bleeding;
- asthma;
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis);
- liver disease; or
- [fluid retention](#).

**If you are pregnant, you should not take meloxicam unless your doctor tells you to.** Taking an NSAID during the last 20 weeks of pregnancy can cause serious heart or kidney problems in the unborn baby and possible complications with your pregnancy.

Meloxicam may cause a delay in ovulation (the release of an egg from an ovary). You should not take this medicine if you are undergoing fertility treatment, or are otherwise trying to get pregnant.

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using this medicine.

Meloxicam is not approved for use by anyone younger than 2 years old.

 [Meloxicam pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How is meloxicam given?

Take Meloxicam exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the lowest effective dose for your condition.

Meloxicam oral is taken by mouth.

Meloxicam injection is given as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider will give you this injection.

Your dose needs may change if you switch to a different brand, strength, or form of meloxicam. Avoid medication errors by using only the medicine your doctor prescribes.

Meloxicam doses are based on weight (especially in children and teenagers). Your dose needs may change if you gain or lose weight.

If you use this medicine long-term, you may need frequent medical tests.

Store **oral suspension, tablets or capsules** at room temperature, away from moisture and heat. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

 [Meloxicam patient tips](#) (more detail)

## Dosing Information

### Usual Adult Dose for Osteoarthritis:

Oral Tablets and Oral Disintegrating Tablets:

- Initial dose: 7.5 mg orally once a day
- Maintenance dose: 15 mg orally once a day in patients requiring additional analgesia
- Maximum dose: 15 mg orally once a day

Oral Capsules:

- Initial dose: 5 mg orally once a day
- Maintenance dose: 10 mg orally once a day in patients requiring additional analgesia
- Maximum dose: 10 mg orally once a day.

Use: For the relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis pain

### Usual Adult Dose for Rheumatoid Arthritis:

Oral Tablets and Oral Disintegrating Tablets:

- Initial dose: 7.5 mg orally once a day
- Maintenance dose: 15 mg orally once a day in patients requiring additional analgesia
- Maximum dose: 15 mg orally once a day.

Use: For the relief of signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis

### Usual Adult Dose for Pain:

30 mg IV bolus (over 15 seconds) once a day

Comments:

- Median time to meaningful pain relief was 2 to 3 hours in clinical trials; a non-NSAID with a rapid onset may be needed; some patients may not experience adequate analgesia for the first 24-hours.
- The lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible consistent with individual treatment goals should be used.

Use: For the management of moderate-to-severe pain, alone or in combination with non-NSAID analgesics.

### Usual Pediatric Dose for Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis:

2 years or older:

Oral Tablets and Oral Disintegrating Tablets:

Weight: 60 kg or greater: 7.5 mg orally once a day

-No additional benefit has been demonstrated with doses above 7.5 mg/day.

Comments:

- Oral formulations have not shown equivalent systemic exposure and are not considered interchangeable
- The oral tablets should not be used in children who weigh less than 60 kg.

Use: For the relief of signs and symptoms of pauciarticular or polyarticular course juvenile rheumatoid arthritis

 [Detailed Meloxicam dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not use 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 receiving meloxicam?

Drinking alcohol may increase your risk of stomach bleeding.

Avoid taking aspirin while you are taking meloxicam, unless your doctor tells you to.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before using other medicines for pain, [fever](#), swelling, or cold/flu symptoms. They may contain ingredients similar to meloxicam (such as aspirin, [ibuprofen](#), [ketoprofen](#), or [naproxen](#)).

## Meloxicam side effects

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

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of a heart attack or stroke**: chest pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, sudden numbness or weakness on one side of the body, slurred speech, leg swelling, feeling short of breath.

**Meloxicam may cause serious side effects. Stop using this medicine and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- the first sign of any skin rash, no matter how mild;
- shortness of breath (even with mild exertion);
- swelling or rapid weight gain;
- **signs of stomach bleeding** - bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- **liver problems** - [nausea](#), upper stomach pain, itching, tired feeling, flu-like symptoms, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- **low red blood cells (anemia)** - pale skin, unusual tiredness, feeling light-headed, cold hands and feet; or

- **kidney problems** - little or no urination, swelling in your feet or ankles, feeling tired or short of breath.

**Common meloxicam side effects may include:**

- stomach pain, nausea, [vomiting](#), [heartburn](#);
- [diarrhea](#), [constipation](#), gas;
- dizziness; or
- [cold symptoms](#), flu symptoms.

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.

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

## Related/similar drugs

### Rinvoq

Rinvoq (upadacitinib) is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, atopic ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

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### Paracetamol

Paracetamol (Panadol, Calpol, Alvedon) is a widely used over-the-counter painkiller and fever ...

#### Reviews & ratings

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### Xeljanz

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Diclofenac is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain and inflammation associated ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.3 / 10

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## Oxycodone

Oxycodone is an opioid analgesic used to treat moderate to severe pain; it has a high potential for ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

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## Naproxen

Naproxen is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain or inflammation caused by ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.8 / 10

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## Tramadol

Tramadol is an opioid medication that may be used to treat moderate to moderately severe chronic ...

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7.0 / 10

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## Hydroxyzine

Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine used to treat itching, hives, and anxiety. It also acts as a ...

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5.9 / 10

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## Duloxetine

Duloxetine is a selective serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor antidepressant used to ...

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6.2 / 10

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## Cyclobenzaprine

Cyclobenzaprine is a muscle relaxant and works by blocking pain sensations. Includes ...

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## What other drugs will affect meloxicam?

**Ask your doctor before using meloxicam if you take an antidepressant.** Taking certain [antidepressants](#) with an NSAID may cause you to bruise or bleed easily.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- [cyclosporine](#);
- [lithium](#);
- [methotrexate](#);
- [pemetrexed](#);

- [sodium polystyrene sulfonate](#) ([Kayexalate](#));
- a blood thinner ([warfarin](#), [Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#));
- heart or blood pressure medication, including a diuretic or "water pill"; or
- steroid medicine (such as [prednisone](#)).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with meloxicam, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

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




## Does meloxicam interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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- Should I take meloxicam at night or in the morning? 
- How much meloxicam can I give my dog? 
- Is meloxicam very similar to Celebrex? 

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- [Meloxicam vs Ibuprofen: What's the difference?](#)
- [Can I take Meloxicam and Aleve or Tylenol together?](#)
- [Which painkiller should you use?](#)
- [How long do I wait after taking ibuprofen to take meloxicam?](#)
- [Can meloxicam cause drowsiness and headache?](#)
- [Is meloxicam a narcotic?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

## References

1. [Meloxicam \(Mobic\) Product Label](#)
2. [Meloxicam Oral Suspension Product Label](#)



## More about meloxicam

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- [Drug class: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Meloxicam \(Intravenous\) advanced reading](#)
- [Meloxicam Orally-Disintegrating Tablets](#)

## Other brands

[Mobic](#), [Anjeso](#), [Vivlodex](#), [Qmiiz ODT](#)

## Professional resources

- [Meloxicam monograph](#)
- [Meloxicam \(FDA\)](#)
- [Meloxicam Capsules \(FDA\)](#)
- [Meloxicam Oral Suspension \(FDA\)](#)

## Other brands

[Mobic](#), [Anjeso](#), [Vivlodex](#), [Qmiiz ODT](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Inflammatory Conditions](#)
- [Osteoarthritis](#)
- [Fibromyalgia](#)

- [Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use meloxicam only for the 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** Prescription only

#### [Pregnancy & Lactation](#)


 Risk data available

#### CSA Schedule\*

**N/A** Not a controlled drug



#### Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



## User Reviews & Ratings

6.3 / 10

[600 Reviews](#)

## Images

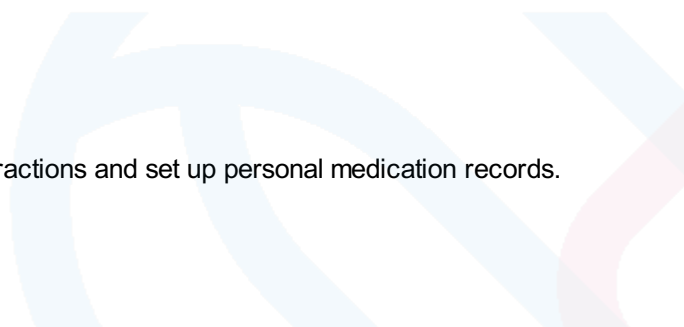
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