

[Home](#)

2. Bisacodyl

## Bisacodyl (oral and rectal)

**Generic name:** bisacodyl (oral and rectal) [ *bis-AK-oh-dil* ]**Brand names:** Alophen, Bisac-Evac, Correct (New Formula), [Correctol](#), Dulcolax Laxative, ... [show all 28 brands](#)**Dosage forms:** oral delayed release tablet (5 mg), rectal enema (10 mg), rectal suppository (10 mg)**Drug class:** [Laxatives](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Sep 20, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

### What is bisacodyl?

Bisacodyl is a laxative that stimulates bowel movements.

Bisacodyl is used to treat [constipation](#) or to empty the bowels before [surgery](#), [colonoscopy](#), x-rays, or other intestinal medical procedure.

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

### Bisacodyl 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.

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

- rectal bleeding; or
- no bowel movement after using bisacodyl.

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

- stomach pain or discomfort;
- feeling light-headed; or
- rectal burning.

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.

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

## Related/similar drugs

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OmvoH is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

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Linzess (linaclotide) is used to treat chronic idiopathic constipation, irritable bowel syndrome ...

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### Dulcolax

Dulcolax (bisacodyl) is a laxative used to treat constipation. Includes Dulcolax side effects ...

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### Sutab

Sutab (sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, and potassium chloride) is used for colonoscopy ...

#### Reviews & ratings

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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

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

- stomach pain, [nausea](#), or [vomiting](#).

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use bisacodyl if you have other medical conditions, especially:

- a sudden change in bowel habits lasting 2 weeks or longer;
- [hemorrhoids](#) or anal fissures (small tears in the skin tissues around your rectum);
- [ulcerative colitis](#), [inflammatory bowel disease](#), or other intestinal disorder;
- a history of perforation (a hole or tear) of your intestines;
- an eating disorder ([anorexia](#) or [bulimia](#)); or
- (for bisacodyl tablets) if you cannot swallow without chewing.

Older adults should not use **rectal** bisacodyl without a doctor's advice.

It is not known whether bisacodyl will harm an unborn baby. **Do not use this medicine without a doctor's advice if you are pregnant.**

It is not known whether bisacodyl passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. **Do not use this medicine without a doctor's advice if you are breast-feeding a baby.**

Do not give this medicine to a child younger than 2 years old without the advice of a doctor.

## How should I use bisacodyl?

Use exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor. Do not use in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. **Overuse of laxatives can cause your bowels to function improperly, or can make you dependent on laxative use.**

In some cases, bisacodyl is taken by mouth. The enema and suppository forms of this medicine are for use in the rectum.

Do not crush, chew, or break a bisacodyl tablet. Swallow it whole with a full glass of water.

Bisacodyl **taken by mouth** should produce a bowel movement within 6 to 12 hours.

Bisacodyl **used in the rectum** can produce much faster results. You should have a bowel movement within 15 to 60 minutes after using a **rectal suppository**, or within 5 to 20 minutes after using the **rectal enema**.

Do not take a **rectal suppository or enema** by mouth. It is for use only in your rectum.

Try to empty your bladder just before using bisacodyl in the rectum.

Wash your hands **before and after** using rectal bisacodyl.

To use the rectal **suppository**:

- Remove the wrapper from the suppository. Avoid handling the suppository too long or it will melt in your hands. If the suppository is soft, you may hold it under cool running water or refrigerate it for a few minutes.
- Lie on your left side with your right knee up toward your chest. Gently insert the **suppository** into your rectum about 1 inch, pointed tip first.
- Stay lying down for a few minutes. The **suppository** will melt quickly and you should feel little or no discomfort while holding it in.
- **Do not use more than one rectal suppository per day.**

To use the rectal **enema**:

- Shake the rectal **enema** before using it. Remove the cap from the enema tip.
- Lie on your left side with your right knee up toward your chest, leaning forward slightly. Gently insert the tip of the **enema** bottle into your rectum, aiming toward your navel.
- Gently squeeze the bottle until it is empty, and then remove it from your rectum.
- For best results, hold the enema liquid in your rectum for up to 10 minutes. Then empty your rectum while seated on a toilet.

Call your doctor if you do not have a bowel movement after using this medicine, or if you have constipation for longer than 7 days.

If you are using bisacodyl to prepare for a medical test, follow your doctor's instructions about when to use the medicine.

Store bisacodyl oral or rectal medicine at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Bisacodyl dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since bisacodyl is used when needed, it does not have a daily dosing schedule.

If you are preparing for a medical test and you miss your dose, call your doctor for instructions.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222, especially if anyone has accidentally swallowed a rectal suppository.

## What should I avoid before or after using bisacodyl?

Avoid using other medications within 2 hours before or 2 hours after using bisacodyl.

Avoid drinking milk or taking an antacid within 1 hour before you take bisacodyl by mouth.

## What other drugs will affect bisacodyl?

Other drugs may interact with bisacodyl, 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.

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

## Does bisacodyl interact with my other drugs?

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

bisacodyl

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## Popular FAQ

Which drugs cause opioid-induced constipation?



## More FAQ

- [Dulcolax - How long does it take for bisacodyl to clear your system?](#)

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Dulcolax](#), [Correctol](#), [Fleet Bisacodyl](#)

## Professional resources

- [Bisacodyl monograph](#)
- [Bisacodyl \(FDA\)](#)

### Other brands

[Dulcolax](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Constipation](#)
- [Bowel Preparation](#)

## 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](#)

## DRUG STATUS

### Availability

**OTC** Over the counter

### Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

### CSA Schedule\*

**N/A** Not a controlled drug



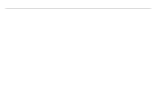
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