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2. Claritin

Claritin

Generic name: [loratadine](#) [*lor-AT-a-deen*]

Brand names: Claritin, Claritin Reditab

Dosage forms: oral capsule (10 mg), oral syrup (5 mg/5 mL), oral tablet (10 mg), oral tablet, chewable (5 mg; 10 mg), ... [show all 5 dosage forms](#)

Drug class: [Antihistamines](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sophia Entringer, PharmD](#). Last updated on Sep 30, 2024.

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

What is Claritin?

Claritin 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.

Claritin is used to treat sneezing, runny nose, watery eyes, hives, skin rash, [hay fever](#), itching, and other cold or [allergy symptoms](#).

Claritin is also used to treat skin hives and itching in people with chronic skin reactions

Warnings

You should not take Claritin if you are allergic to loratadine or to desloratadine (Clarinx).

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.

Some chewable dosage forms of Claritin may contain phenylalanine. Talk to your doctor before using these forms of loratadine if you have phenylketonuria (PKU).

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before taking Claritin if you have liver or kidney disease.

Before taking this medicine

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if Claritin is safe to use if you have ever had:

- kidney disease; or
- liver disease.

The chewable Claritin tablet may contain phenylalanine and could be harmful if you have [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU).

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

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

i [Claritin pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Claritin?

Use Claritin 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. Cold or allergy medicine is usually taken only for a short time until your symptoms clear up.

Do not give Claritin to a child younger than 2 years old. **Always ask a doctor before giving a cough or cold medicine to a child.** Death can occur from the misuse of cough and cold medicines in very young children.

Claritin is usually taken once per day. Follow your doctor's instructions.

Do not crush, chew, or break the **regular tablet**. Swallow the tablet whole.

A child's dose is based on age and some forms of loratadine are not for use in children younger than 6 years old.

Carefully follow the dosing instructions provided with this medicine.

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.

The Claritin chewable tablet must be chewed before you swallow it.

To take the orally disintegrating tablet (Claritin Reditab):

- Keep the tablet in its blister pack until you are ready to take it. Open the package and peel back the foil. Do not push a tablet through the foil or you may damage the tablet.
- Use dry hands to remove the tablet and place it in your mouth.
- Do not swallow the tablet whole. Allow it to dissolve in your mouth without chewing. If desired, you may drink liquid to help swallow the dissolved tablet.

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

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Claritin side effects

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

Stop using this medicine and call your doctor at once if you have:

- fast or uneven heart rate;
- severe headache; or
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;

Common Claritin side effects may include:

- headache;
- feeling tired or drowsy;
- stomach pain, vomiting;
- dry mouth; or
- feeling nervous or hyperactive.

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.

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

Related/similar drugs

Zyrtec

Zyrtec (cetirizine) is used to treat allergy symptoms such as sneezing, itching, watery eyes, or ...

Reviews & ratings

5.8 / 10

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Benadryl

Benadryl is an antihistamine and is used to treat sneezing, runny nose, itching and other ...

Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[79 Reviews](#)

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FEATURED

Xolair

Xolair injection (omalizumab) is used to reduce the risk of severe food allergy reactions ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[229 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Levocetirizine

Levocetirizine is an antihistamine that may be used to reduce allergy symptoms such as red, itchy ...

Reviews & ratings

5.6 / 10

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Fexofenadine

Fexofenadine is an antihistamine that may be used to treat allergies.

Reviews & ratings

6.3 / 10

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Diphenhydramine

Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine used to treat sneezing, runny nose, itching, hives and other ...

Reviews & ratings

5.5 / 10

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Promethazine

Promethazine is a phenothiazine and antihistamine used to treat allergies, motion sickness, nausea ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

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Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Allergic Rhinitis:

10 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Use: Temporary relief of symptoms associated with hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies (e.g., runny nose, itchy, watery eyes, sneezing, itching of the nose/throat)

Usual Adult Dose for Urticaria:

10 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Use: Temporary relief of symptoms associated with hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies (e.g., runny nose, itchy, watery eyes, sneezing, itching of the nose/throat)

Usual Pediatric Dose for Allergic Rhinitis:

2 to 5 years: 5 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 5 mg/day

6 years and older: 10 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Use: Temporary relief of symptoms associated with hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies (e.g., runny nose, itchy, watery eyes, sneezing, itching of the nose/throat)

Usual Pediatric Dose for Urticaria:

2 to 5 years: 5 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 5 mg/day

6 years and older: 10 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Use: Temporary relief of symptoms associated with hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies (e.g., runny nose, itchy, watery eyes, sneezing, itching of the nose/throat)

 [Detailed Claritin dosage information](#)

What other drugs will affect Claritin?

Other drugs may interact with loratadine, 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.

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

Does Claritin interact with my other drugs?

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

Claritin

+

Enter a drug name

Add

What happens if I miss a dose?

Claritin is used when needed. Do not use Claritin more than once in a 24-hour period. Do not use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Overdose symptoms may include headache, drowsiness, and fast or pounding heartbeat.

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

What should I avoid while taking Claritin?

Follow your doctor's instructions about any restrictions on food, beverages, or activity.

Popular FAQ

Does loratadine make you sleepy?



More FAQ

- [What are the most common skin conditions? \(with photos\)](#)
- [Zyrtec vs Claritin: Which is more effective for allergies?](#)
- [Allegra vs Claritin: Which is more effective for allergies?](#)
- [Why do you take Claritin with Neulasta?](#)
- [Can I take Claritin with Mucinex DM?](#)
- [Can you take antihistamines when pregnant?](#)
- [How long can I take Claritin?](#)
- [What is the difference between Claritin and Sudafed?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

References

1. [Claritin Product Label](#)

More about Claritin (loratadine)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(49\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
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- [Breastfeeding](#)
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Patient resources

Other brands

[Alavert](#)

Professional resources

- [Claritin prescribing information](#)
- [Loratadine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Allergy Relief Tablets](#), [Alavert](#), [Allergy Relief 24 Hour](#), [Dimetapp Children's ND Non-Drowsy Allergy](#)

Other formulations

- [Claritin-D](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Allergic Rhinitis](#)
- [Urticaria](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Claritin 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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Claritin Pediatric Dosage Guide

Use these dosage charts for infants and children under 12 years old:
[Claritin Dosage Charts \(Infants & Children\)](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability		
	Rx and/or OTC	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
Approval History		
	FDA approved 1993	▼

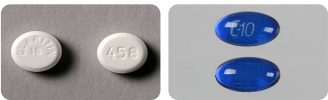
User Reviews & Ratings

3.7 / 10

[49 Reviews](#)

Images

[Claritin 10 mg \(CLARITIN 10 458\)](#)



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