

[Home](#)

2. Colchicine

# Colchicine

**Pronunciation:** *coll-chi-seen***Generic name:** colchicine**Brand names:** [Colcrys](#), [Gloperba](#), [Mitigare](#), [Lodoco](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet, oral capsule, oral solution**Drug class:** [Antigout agents](#)Medically reviewed by [Carmen Pope, BPharm](#). Last updated on Jul 23, 2024.[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Overdose](#) [What to avoid](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is colchicine?

Colchicine is an oral, plant-based prescription alkaloid derived from the dried seeds of the autumn crocus or meadow saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*) that, depending on the brand or generic, may be used to:

- treat and prevent gout flares in adults (Colcrys, generics)
- prevent gout flares in adults and children aged 16 years and older (Colcrys, Gloperba, Mitigare, generics)
- treat symptoms of Behçet disease (BD), such as redness, swelling, or pain (generics)
- treat familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) in adults and children 4 years of age or older (Colcrys)
- reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular death in adults with heart disease or at high risk of developing it (Lodoco tablets).

Colchicine is not an analgesic medication and should not be used to treat pain from other causes.

How colchicine works is not fully understood. However, it's believed the mechanism of action (MOA) of colchicine is to reduce the inflammatory reaction to urate crystals by interfering with a process in white blood cells that triggers inflammation and prevents their migration to areas of inflammation. Colchicine does not affect uric acid production or excretion.

Colchicine was initially approved in 1961 and developed before federal regulations requiring FDA review of all marketed drug products. Colchicine may also be used for purposes not listed here.

## Colchicine uses

**Colcrys tablets 0.6 mg** are FDA-approved to:

- treat or prevent gout in adults (FDA-approval October 22, 2009)
- treat a genetic condition called Familial Mediterranean Fever in adults and children who are at least 4 years old

(FDA-approval July 31, 2009).

**Mitigare capsules 0.6 mg** are FDA-approved to prevent gout flares in adults (FDA-approval September 26, 2014).

**Gloperba oral solution (0.6 mg/5mL)** is FDA-approved to prevent gout attacks (FDA-approval January 30, 2019).

**Lodoco tablets 0.5 mg** are FDA-approved to lower the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular death in adults with heart disease or at high risk of developing it (FDA-approval June 16, 2023).

**Generic forms of colchicine (colchicine 0.6 mg)** have been used to treat or prevent attacks of gout, or to treat symptoms of Behcet's syndrome (such as swelling, redness, warmth, and pain).

Colchicine is not a cure for gouty arthritis or Behcet's syndrome, and it will not prevent these diseases from progressing.

## Colchicine side effects

The **most common side effects of colchicine** are gastrointestinal symptoms, including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal (stomach) pain

## Serious side effects and warnings

Do not take colchicine if you have **liver or kidney problems** and you take certain other medicines. Serious side effects, including death, have been reported in these patients even when taken as directed.

**Blood problems** (such as myelosuppression, leukopenia, granulocytopenia, thrombocytopenia, and aplastic anemia) have been reported (have happened in some people taking colchicine. Get medical help right away if you have a pale or gray color to your lips, tongue, or palms of your hands; feel weak or tired; unusual bleeding or bruising; or increased infections

**Muscle weakness** has happened in some people taking colchicine. Get medical help right away if you have any of these symptoms muscle weakness or pain, numbness, or tingling in your fingers or toes.

Colchicine can cause serious side effects or death if levels of colchicine are too high in your body. Get medical help right away if you have:

- Muscle weakness or pain
- Numbness or tingling in your fingers or toes
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Increased infections
- Feel weak or tired
- Pale or gray color to your lips, tongue, or palms of your hands
- Severe diarrhea or vomiting.

These are not all of the possible side effects of colchicine For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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

## Related/similar drugs

### Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Repatha

Repatha (evolocumab) is a PCSK9 inhibitor used to lower high cholesterol alongside dietary changes ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[685 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### Wegovy

Wegovy is a once-weekly semaglutide injection used for chronic weight management and to reduce ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.6 / 10

[478 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Jardiance

Jardiance (empagliflozin) is used to treat type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease and reduce the ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[325 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Xarelto

Xarelto (rivaroxaban) is a factor Xa inhibitor used to reduce the risk of blood clots and stroke in ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[224 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Rybelsus

Rybelsus tablets are used to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 diabetes, and may ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[282 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Trulicity

Trulicity is an injectable diabetes medicine that is used together with diet and exercise to ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[970 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Advil

Advil (ibuprofen) reduces fever, pain and inflammation caused by headaches, toothaches, arthritis ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[41 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Before taking

Do not take colchicine if you have liver or kidney problems and you take certain other medicines. Serious side effects, including death, have been reported in these patients even when taken as directed.

Before you take colchicine, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have liver or kidney problems
- take other medications, including ones that are only taken for a short time, such as antibiotics, because they may interact with colchicine
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Your dose of colchicine may need to be changed.

Colchicine may rarely and transiently impair fertility in males who can father children.

## Pregnancy

It is not known if colchicine will harm your unborn baby. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

## Breastfeeding

Colchicine passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take colchicine or breastfeed. If you take colchicine and breastfeed, you should talk to your child's healthcare provider about how to watch for side effects in your child.

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

## How should I take colchicine?

Take colchicine exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. If you are not sure about your dosing, call your healthcare provider.

- Colchicine tablets, capsules, or the solution can be taken **with or without food**.
- **Measure Gloperba liquid** with an accurate milliliter measuring device. A household teaspoon is not an accurate measuring device. Ask your pharmacist to recommend a measuring device and for instructions on how to measure the correct dose.

**Gastrointestinal symptoms, such as diarrhea**, are often the first sign of colchicine toxicity. Contact your healthcare provider immediately if new symptoms develop.

If you have a gout flare while taking colchicine daily, report this to your healthcare provider.

Do not stop taking colchicine even if you start to feel better unless your healthcare provider tells you.

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

## Colchicine dosage

Dosage adjustments may be needed in patients with kidney or liver disease, younger patients, or when colchicine is taken with certain other medications.

- Your healthcare provider may do blood tests while you take colchicine.

## How to take colchicine for gout flares in adults

**Colcrys:** 1.2 mg (two tablets) at the first sign of a gout flare followed by 0.6 mg (one tablet) one hour later.

- The maximum recommended dose of colchicine for the treatment of gout flares is 1.8 mg over one hour.
- Do not repeat this course for at least 3 days.
- Colchicine is taken to ease the pain of a gout attack.
- After taking the colchicine dose to treat a gout attack (flare), wait 12 hours and then resume the preventive dose.
- If you are already taking colchicine to prevent gout flares, talk to your healthcare provider about what you should take during a gout flare.

## How to take colchicine to prevent gout flares in adults

**Colcrys:** 0.6 mg once or twice daily in adults and adolescents older than 16 years. Maximum dose 1.2 mg/day.

**Mitigare:** 0.6 mg once or twice daily. Maximum dose 1.2 mg per day.

**Gloperba:** 0.6 mg (5 mL) once or twice daily. Maximum dose 1.2 mg/day.

## Colchicine dosage for Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF)

**Colcrys:**

- Adults and children older than 12 years: 1.2 – 2.4 mg
- Children 6 to 12 years: 0.9 – 1.8 mg
- Children 4 to 6 years: 0.3 – 1.8 mg.

Give the total daily dose in one or two divided doses.

Increase or decrease the dose as indicated and as tolerated in increments of 0.3 mg/day, not to exceed the maximum recommended daily dose

## Colchicine dosage for Behçet disease (BD)

**Generic colchicine:** Experimental doses ranged from colchicine 0.6 mg/day to 2 mg/day in divided doses.

## Colchicine dosage to reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular death

**Lodoco tablets:** 0.5 mg (1 tablet) daily.

**i** [Detailed Colchicine dosage information](#)

## Colchicine poisoning

**Colchicine is extremely dangerous if too much is taken.** Even small amounts can be fatal, especially in children. The difference between a safe dose and an overdose is very small. Many people have died after accidentally taking too much colchicine. Handle and store colchicine carefully.

## What happens if I miss a dose?

If you take colchicine daily and you miss a dose, then take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, just skip the missed dose. Take the next dose at your regular time. **Do not take two doses at the same time.**

## What happens if I overdose?

If you take too much colchicine, go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Fatal overdoses have been reported with colchicine in adults and children. Keep out of the reach of children.

## What should I avoid while taking colchicine?

Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice while taking colchicine. It can increase your chances of getting serious side effects.

Colchicine interacts with many other medications. Do not start a new medication without asking your healthcare provider first if it interacts with colchicine.

## What other drugs can affect colchicine?

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Taking certain medicines with colchicine can cause your level of colchicine to become too high, especially if you have kidney or liver problems.

Even medicines that you take for a short period, such as antibiotics, can interact with colchicine and cause serious side effects or death. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- atazanavir sulfate (Reyataz)
- clarithromycin (Biaxin)
- cyclosporine (Neoral, Gengraf, Sandimmune)
- darunavir (Prezista)
- digoxin
- fosamprenavir (Lexiva) with or without ritonavir
- indinavir (Crixivan)
- itraconazole (Sporanox)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral)
- lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra)
- nefazodone (Serzone)

- nelfinavir mesylate (Viracept)
- ritonavir (Norvir)
- saquinavir mesylate (Invirase)
- telithromycin (Ketek)
- tipranavir (Aptivus).

Using colchicine with HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (such as simvastatin, atorvastatin, or pravastatin), gemfibrozil, and fenofibric acid or cyclosporine may potentiate the development of muscle problems, including muscles weakness, or fatigue.

Co-administration of colchicine with dual CYP3A4 and P-gp inhibitors (such as clarithromycin or cyclosporine) has resulted in life-threatening interactions and death.

Grapefruit and grapefruit juice may also interact and should not be consumed during colchicine treatment.

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if you take any of the medicines listed above. This is not a complete list of all the medicines that can interact with Colchicine. See the colchicine prescribing information for a complete list. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

## Colchicine storage

Store colchicine tablets and liquid at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).

Keep in a tightly closed container, away from light.

Keep out of the reach of children.

## Colchicine ingredients

### Colcrys 0.6 mg tablets

Active Ingredient: colchicine 0.6 mg

Inactive Ingredients: carnauba wax, FD&C blue #2, FD&C red #40, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polydextrose, polyethylene glycol, pregelatinized starch, sodium starch glycolate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

### Mitigare 0.6 mg capsule

Active Ingredient: colchicine 0.6 mg

Inactive Ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, lactose anhydrous, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose and sodium starch glycolate.

The capsule shell contains gelatin, purified water, titanium dioxide, erythrosine, Brilliant Blue FCF, and Quinoline Yellow.

### Lodoco 0.5 mg tablets

Active Ingredient: colchicine 0.5 mg



Inactive Ingredients: gelatin, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, potato starch, and talc.

### **Gloperba 0.6 mg/5 mL oral solution**

Active Ingredient: colchicine 0.6 mg/5 mL oral solution

Inactive Ingredients: benzyl alcohol, FD&C Red No. 40, artificial cherry flavor, anhydrous citric acid, dibasic sodium phosphate, glycerin, propylene glycol, sucralose, xanthan gum, and purified water.

### **Generic colchicine 0.6 mg tablets**

Refer to the manufacturer's medication guide.

### **Generic colchicine 0.6 mg capsules**

Refer to the manufacturer's medication guide.

## **Who makes colchicine?**

Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A., Inc. makes **Colcrys**.

West-Ward Columbus Inc. makes **Mitigare** capsules for Hikma Americas Inc.

Agepha Pharma USA, LLC. distributes **Lodoco**.

**Gloperba** is manufactured for Scilex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Various manufacturers make **generic colchicine 0.6 mg tablets** including Camber Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ascend Laboratories, LLC., and Actavis Pharma, Inc.

Various manufacturers make **generic colchicine 0.6 mg capsules** including Par Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Aurobindo Pharma Limited, and Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.

## **Frequently asked questions**

- [Can Colchicine be used to treat COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)?](#)

### **References**

1. [Lodoco Prescribing Information](#)
2. [Safer Prescribing of High-Risk Medicines. Colchicine Extremely Toxic in Overdose.](#)
3. [GLOPERBA- colchicine solution. Daily Med.](#)
4. [MITIGARE- colchicine capsule. Daily Med.](#)
5. [LODOCO- colchicine tablets 0.5 mg tablet. Daily Med.](#)
6. [Colcrys Prescribing Information](#)
7. [Bozca BC, Alpsoy E. Experimental Therapeutic Solutions for Behcet's Disease. J Exp Pharmacol. 2021;13:127-145 https://doi.org/10.2147/JEP.S265645](#)
8. [Gloperba Medication Guide](#)
9. [Gloperba Prescribing Information](#)

## More about colchicine

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(102\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: antigout agents](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Colchicine Tablets patient information](#)
- [Colchicine Capsules](#)
- [Colchicine Oral Solution](#)

## Other brands

[Colcrys](#), [Lodoco](#), [Gloperba](#)

## Professional resources

- [Colchicine monograph](#)
- [Colchicine \(FDA\)](#)
- [Colchicine Capsules \(FDA\)](#)
- [Colchicine Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

## Other brands

[Colcrys](#), [Mitigare](#), [Colcigel Gel](#), [Lodoco](#), [Gloperba](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Gout, Acute](#)
- [Cardiovascular Risk Reduction](#)
- [Behcet's Disease](#)
- [Amyloidosis](#)

## 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

**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

7.3 / 10

[102 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Colchicine 0.6 mg \(G 02\)](#)



[View larger images](#)

## Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



### About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

**Terms & privacy**

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

## Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices  
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.