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# Ibuprofen

**Pronunciation:** *EYE-bue-PROE-fen*

**Generic name:** ibuprofen

**Brand names:** [Advil](#), [Genpril](#), [IBU](#), [Midol IB](#), [Motrin IB](#), [Proprinal](#), Smart Sense Children's Ibuprofen

**Dosage forms:** oral capsule (200 mg), oral suspension (100 mg/5 mL; 50 mg/1.25 mL), oral tablet (100 mg; 200 mg; 400 mg; 600 mg; 800 mg), ... [show all 4 dosage forms](#)

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

Medically reviewed by [Kaci Durbin, MD](#). Last updated on Oct 3, 2023.

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## What is ibuprofen?

[Ibuprofen](#) is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It works by reducing hormones that cause inflammation and pain in the body.

Ibuprofen is used to reduce fever and treat pain or inflammation caused by many conditions such as [headache](#), [toothache](#), [back pain](#), arthritis, menstrual cramps, or minor injury.

Ibuprofen is used in adults and children who are at least 6 months old.

## Warnings

Ibuprofen can increase your risk of fatal [heart attack](#) or stroke. Do not use this medicine just before or after heart bypass surgery (coronary artery bypass graft, or CABG).

Ibuprofen 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.

Do not take more than your recommended dose. **An ibuprofen overdose can damage your stomach or intestines.** Use only the smallest amount of medication needed to get relief from your pain, swelling, or fever.

## Before taking this medicine

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

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

- heart disease, [high blood pressure](#), [high cholesterol](#), diabetes, or if you smoke;

- a heart attack, stroke, or blood clot;
- stomach ulcers or bleeding;
- liver or kidney disease;
- asthma; or
- if you take aspirin to prevent heart attack or stroke.

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

**If you are pregnant, you should not take ibuprofen 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.

**Do not give ibuprofen to a child younger than 6 months old without the advice of a doctor.**

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

## How should I take ibuprofen?

Use ibuprofen exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor. Use the lowest dose that is effective in treating your condition.

**An ibuprofen overdose can damage your stomach or intestines.** The maximum amount of ibuprofen for adults is 800 milligrams per dose or 3200 mg per day (4 maximum doses).

A child's dose is based on the age and weight of the child. Carefully follow the dosing instructions provided with children's ibuprofen for the age and weight of your child. Ask a doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.

Take ibuprofen with food or milk to lessen [stomach upset](#).

Shake the **oral suspension** (liquid) before you measure a dose. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

You must chew the chewable tablet before you swallow it.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Do not allow the liquid medicine to freeze.

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

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since ibuprofen is used when needed, you may not be on a dosing schedule. Skip any missed dose if it's 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. Overdose symptoms may include [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), stomach pain, drowsiness, black or bloody stools, coughing up blood, shallow breathing, fainting, or coma.

## What to avoid

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

Avoid taking aspirin unless your doctor tells you to.

If you also take aspirin to prevent stroke or heart attack, taking ibuprofen can make aspirin less effective in protecting your heart and blood vessels. If you take both medicines, take ibuprofen at least 8 hours before or 30 minutes after you take aspirin (non-enteric coated form).

Avoid drinking alcohol. It may increase your risk of stomach bleeding.

## Ibuprofen side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to ibuprofen** ([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.

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

- changes in your vision;
- shortness of breath (even with mild exertion);
- swelling or rapid weight gain;
- a skin rash, no matter how mild;
- **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, feeling light-headed or short of breath, rapid heart rate, trouble concentrating; or
- **kidney problems** - little or no urinating, painful or difficult urination, swelling in your feet or ankles, feeling tired or short of breath.

Common ibuprofen side effects may include:

- nausea, vomiting, gas;
- bleeding; or
- [dizziness](#), headache.

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.

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

## Related/similar drugs

### Xeljanz

Xeljanz (tofacitinib) is an oral Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor that may be used alone or with other ...

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### Rinvoq

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

#### Reviews & ratings

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## Naproxen

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

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## Amitriptyline

Amitriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant used to treat depression and, off-label, conditions ...

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

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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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### Cyclobenzaprine

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

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## What other drugs will affect ibuprofen?

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

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

- [cyclosporine](#);
- [lithium](#);
- [methotrexate](#);
- 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 ibuprofen, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

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

## Does ibuprofen interact with my other drugs?








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

ibuprofen

+

Enter a drug name

## Popular FAQ

- Can I take ibuprofen with Ajovy? 
- Naproxen vs ibuprofen: What's the difference? 
- Can you take ibuprofen on an empty stomach? 
- Can you take expired ibuprofen? 
- What's the difference between aspirin and ibuprofen? 
- Can you overdose on ibuprofen? 
- Can you take tramadol with acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or aspirin? 

## More FAQ

- [Can you take Ibuprofen if you have COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)?](#)
- [Meloxicam vs Ibuprofen: What's the difference?](#)

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## Patient resources

- [Ibuprofen \(Intravenous\) advanced reading](#)
- [Ibuprofen lysine \(Advanced Reading\)](#)
- [Ibuprofen Chewable Tablets](#)
- [Ibuprofen Injection \(PDA\)](#)
- [Ibuprofen Tablets](#)
- [Ibuprofen Suspension](#)

## Other brands

[Advil](#), [IBU](#), [Motrin IB](#), [Children's Motrin](#), ... +14 more

## Professional resources

- [Ibuprofen, Ibuprofen Lysine monograph](#)
- [Ibuprofen \(FDA\)](#)
- [Ibuprofen 800mg \(FDA\)](#)
- [Ibuprofen Capsules \(FDA\)](#)
- [Ibuprofen Immediate Release Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

## Other brands

[Advil](#), [Motrin](#), [IBU](#), [Motrin IB](#), ... +8 more

## Related treatment guides

- [Back Pain](#)
- [Chronic Pain](#)
- [Aseptic Necrosis](#)
- [Chronic Myofascial Pain](#)

## Further information

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

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

## DRUG STATUS

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

## User Reviews & Ratings

7.3 / 10

[240 Reviews](#)

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