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# Atarax

**Generic name:** [hydroxyzine](#) [ *hye-DROX-ee-zeen* ]

**Drug classes:** [Antihistamines](#), [Miscellaneous anxiolytics](#), [sedatives and hypnotics](#)

[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com. Last updated on Nov 23, 2023.

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The Atarax brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

## What is Atarax?

Atarax reduces activity in the central nervous system. It also acts as an antihistamine that reduces the natural chemical histamine in the body. Histamine can produce symptoms of sneezing and runny nose, or hives on the skin.

Atarax is used as a sedative to treat anxiety and tension. It is also used together with other medications given for anesthesia.

Atarax is also used to treat allergic skin reactions such as hives or contact dermatitis.

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

## Warnings

You should not use Atarax if you are allergic to hydroxyzine, or if you are pregnant.

Before you take Atarax, tell your doctor if you have a seizure disorder, liver disease, or kidney disease.

This medication may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

Stop using Atarax and call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect such as tremors, confusion, seizures, or restless muscle movements in your eyes, tongue, jaw, or neck.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of hydroxyzine.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use Atarax if you are allergic to hydroxyzine, or if you are pregnant.

To make sure you can safely take Atarax, tell your doctor if you have any of these other conditions:

- epilepsy or other seizure disorder;
- asthma, emphysema, or other breathing problem;
- glaucoma;
- heart disease or high blood pressure;
- stomach ulcer, blockage in your stomach or intestines;
- thyroid disorder;
- enlarged prostate or problems with urination;
- liver disease; or
- kidney disease.

**Do not use Atarax** without telling your doctor if you are pregnant. It could harm the unborn baby. Use effective birth control, and tell your doctor if you become pregnant during treatment.

It is not known whether hydroxyzine passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Do not use this medication without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

Older adults may be more likely to have side effects from this medication.

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

## How should I take Atarax?

Take Atarax exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Take this medicine with a full glass of water.

Measure Atarax syrup with a special dose-measuring spoon or cup, not a regular table spoon. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Atarax dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

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

Overdose symptoms may include extreme drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, feeling like you might pass out.

## What should I avoid?

This medication may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of Atarax.

## Atarax side effects

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

Stop using Atarax and call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect such as:

- restless muscle movements in your eyes, tongue, jaw, or neck;
- tremor (uncontrolled shaking);
- confusion; or
- seizure (convulsions).

Less serious Atarax side effects may include:

- dizziness, drowsiness;
- blurred vision, dry mouth; or
- 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.

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

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## What other drugs will affect Atarax?

Before using Atarax, tell your doctor if you regularly use other medicines that make you sleepy (such as cold or allergy medicine, sedatives, narcotic pain medicine, sleeping pills, muscle relaxers, and medicine for seizures, depression, or anxiety). They can add to sleepiness caused by Atarax.

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with hydroxyzine. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

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

## Does Atarax interact with my other drugs?

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

Atarax

+

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▼
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### Other brands

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- [HydrOXYzine Hydrochloride, hydrOXYzine Pamoate \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

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## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Atarax only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
	Discontinued	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
10+ years	FDA approved 1956	▼

User Reviews & Ratings

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