



[Home](#)

2. Clarinex

Clarinex

Generic name: [desloratadine](#) [*DES-lor-A-ta-deen*]

Drug class: [Antihistamines](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Aug 23, 2023.

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

What is Clarinex?

Clarinex is an antihistamine that reduces the effects of the natural chemical histamine in the body. Histamine can produce symptoms of sneezing, itching, watery eyes, and runny nose.

Clarinex is used to treat the symptoms of [allergies](#), such as sneezing, watery eyes, itching, and [runny nose](#).

Clarinex is also used to treat skin [hives](#) and itching in people with chronic skin reactions.

Warnings

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

Before taking Clarinex, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs, or if you have liver or kidney disease.

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

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

To make sure Clarinex is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- kidney disease; or
- liver disease.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

This medicine may contain phenylalanine. Tell your doctor if you have [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU).

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

How should I take Clarinex?

Take Clarinex exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

You may take Clarinex with or without food.

Carefully follow your doctor's dosing instructions when giving this medicine to a child. Desloratadine should not be given to a child younger than 6 months old.

Measure liquid medicine carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Remove an orally disintegrating tablet from the package only when you are ready to take the medicine. Place the tablet on your tongue and allow it to dissolve, without chewing. Swallow several times as the tablet dissolves.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Protect the liquid medicine from light.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Allergic Rhinitis:

5 mg orally once a day

Uses:

- Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of seasonal [allergic rhinitis](#)
- Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis
- Symptomatic relief of [pruritus](#), reduction in the number of hives, and size of hives in patients with chronic idiopathic [urticaria](#)

Usual Adult Dose for Urticaria:

5 mg orally once a day

Uses:

- Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis
- Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis
- Symptomatic relief of pruritus, reduction in the number of hives, and size of hives in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria

Usual Pediatric Dose for Allergic Rhinitis:

6 to 11 months: 1 mg orally once a day

12 months to 5 years: 1.25 mg orally once a day

6 to 11 years: 2.5 mg orally once a day

12 years and older: 5 mg orally once a day

Uses:

- Patients 6 months and older: Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis
- Patients 6 months and older: Symptomatic relief of pruritus, reduction in the number of hives, and size of hives in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria

-Patients 2 years and older: Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis

Usual Pediatric Dose for Urticaria:

6 to 11 months: 1 mg orally once a day

12 months to 5 years: 1.25 mg orally once a day

6 to 11 years: 2.5 mg orally once a day

12 years and older: 5 mg orally once a day

Uses:

-Patients 6 months and older: Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis

-Patients 6 months and older: Symptomatic relief of pruritus, reduction in the number of hives, and size of hives in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria

-Patients 2 years and older: Relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis

 [Detailed Clarinex dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take 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.

What to avoid

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

Clarinex side effects

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

Common Clarinex side effects may include:

- dry mouth, [sore throat](#);
- muscle pain;
- drowsiness, tiredness; or
- menstrual pain.

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.

 [Clarinex 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

[197 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Benadryl

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

Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[79 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

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](#)

Claritin

Claritin is an antihistamine used to treat the symptoms of allergies, such as sneezing, watery ...

Reviews & ratings

3.7 / 10

[49 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Diphenhydramine

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

Reviews & ratings

5.5 / 10

[541 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Prednisone

Prednisone is used to treat allergic disorders, ulcerative colitis, psoriasis and arthritis. Learn ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[867 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Dexamethasone

Dexamethasone is used to treat inflammatory conditions such as allergies, skin conditions ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[162 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Loratadine

Loratadine is a non-drowsy antihistamine used to relieve allergy symptoms like sneezing, runny ...

Reviews & ratings

4.7 / 10

[139 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect Clarinex?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- a cold or allergy medicine;
- [cimetidine](#);
- [fluoxetine](#) ([Prozac](#));
- [ketoconazole](#); or
- **an antibiotic** - [azithromycin](#) (Z-Pak) or [erythromycin](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with desloratadine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

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

Does Clarinex interact with my other drugs?

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

Clarinex

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about Clarinex (desloratadine)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(6\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: antihistamines](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Professional resources

- [Clarinex prescribing information](#)
- [Desloratadine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other formulations

- [Clarinex Reditabs](#)
- [Clarinex-D 24 Hour](#)
- [Clarinex-D 12 Hour](#)

Related treatment guides

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

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Clarinex 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](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 8.01.

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	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	FDA approved 2001

User Reviews & Ratings

[6 Reviews](#)

Images

[Clarinex 5 mg \(C5\)](#)

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.