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2. Periogard

Periogard (oral rinse)

Generic name: [chlorhexidine gluconate](#) (oral rinse) [*klor-HEX-i-deen*]

Brand names: [Peridex](#), [PerioChip](#), Periogard

Drug classes: [Antiseptic and germicides](#), [Mouth and throat products](#)



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What is Periogard?

Periogard is a germicidal mouthwash that reduces bacteria in the mouth.

Periogard is used to treat [gingivitis](#) (swelling, redness, bleeding gums). This medicine is usually prescribed by a dentist.

Periogard is not for treating all types of gingivitis. Use the medication only to treat the condition your dentist prescribed it for. Do not share this medication with another person, even if they have the same gum symptoms you have.

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

Periogard side effects

Periogard can cause a rare but serious allergic reaction that may be life-threatening. Get emergency medical help if you have any of these **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives, severe skin [rash](#); [wheezing](#), difficult breathing; cold sweats, feeling light-headed; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Periogard may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- white patches or sores inside your mouth or on your lips;
- mouth ulcers; or
- swelling of your salivary glands (underneath your jaws).

Common side effects of Periogard may include:

- mouth irritation;
- tooth staining;
- [dry mouth](#);
- unusual or unpleasant taste in your mouth; or
- decreased taste sensation.

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.

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

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Warnings

Periogard can cause a rare but serious allergic reaction that may be life-threatening. Get emergency medical help if you have: hives, severe skin rash; wheezing, difficult breathing; cold sweats, feeling light-headed; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Do not give this medication to a child or teenager without a doctor's advice. Periogard may cause severe irritation or chemical burns in young children.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to Periogard.

If you have periodontal disease, you may need special treatments while you are using Periogard.

Do not give this medication to a child or teenager without a doctor's advice. This medicine may cause severe irritation or

chemical burns in young children. Periogard is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

It is not known whether this medicine will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

It is not known whether [chlorhexidine](#) gluconate passes into breast milk or if it could affect the nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

How should I use Periogard?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not use Periogard in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Rinse your mouth with Periogard twice daily **after** brushing your teeth.

Measure your dose using the cup provided with the medication. Swish the medicine in your mouth for at least 30 seconds, then spit it out. **Do not swallow the mouthwash.**

Do not add water to the oral rinse. Do not rinse your mouth with water or other mouthwashes right after using Periogard.

Periogard may leave an unpleasant taste in your mouth. Do not rinse your mouth to remove this taste after using the medication. You may rinse the medicine away and reduce its effectiveness.

Use this medication for the full prescribed length of time. Your symptoms may improve before your gingivitis is completely cleared. Periogard will not treat a viral or [fungal infection](#) such as [cold sores](#), [canker sores](#), or [oral thrush](#) (yeast infection).

Visit your dentist at least every 6 months for preventive tooth and gum care.

Store Periogard at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Periogard dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the missed dose as soon as you remember, but brush your teeth first. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. **Do not** use 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, especially if a child has swallowed 4 or more ounces of Periogard.

An overdose of chlorhexidine would occur only if the medicine were swallowed. Overdose symptoms may include [nausea](#), stomach pain, or the appearance of being drunk.

What should I avoid while taking Periogard?

Periogard can stain teeth, dentures, tooth restorations, your tongue, or the inside of your mouth. Talk with your dentist about ways to remove staining from these surfaces. Stains may be harder to remove from false teeth that have scratches

in their surfaces.

Avoid eating, drinking, or brushing your teeth just after using this medication.

Do not use any other mouthwash unless your doctor has told you to.

What other drugs will affect Periogard?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on Periogard. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

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

Does Periogard interact with my other drugs?

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

Periogard

+

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Further information

- Your pharmacist or dentist can provide more information about Periogard oral rinse.

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

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

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Availability		
	Rx and/or OTC	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
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CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
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	Drug history at FDA	▼

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