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Advil

Generic name: [ibuprofen](#) [*EYE-bue-PROE-fen*]

Brand names: Advil, Junior Strength Advil

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

Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Mar 21, 2024.

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What is Advil?

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

Advil 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.

Advil is used in adults and children who are at least 2 years old. For children under 2 years check with a doctor.

Warnings

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

Advil can increase your risk of fatal heart attack or stroke, even if you don't have any risk factors. Do not use this medicine just before or after heart bypass surgery (coronary artery bypass graft, or CABG).

Advil 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.

You should not use Advil if you are allergic to ibuprofen, 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 Advil to a child younger than 2 years old without the advice of a doctor.

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

How should I take Advil?

Use Advil 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 of ibuprofen is based on the age and weight of the child. Carefully follow the dosing instructions provided with Junior Strength Advil for the age and weight of your child. Ask a doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.

Take Advil 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 Advil dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since Advil 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.

Advil side effects

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

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

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What other drugs will affect Advil?

Ask your doctor before using Advil 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.

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

Does Advil interact with my other drugs?

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

Advil

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

Other brands

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Professional resources

- [Advil prescribing information](#)
- [Ibuprofen, Ibuprofen Lysine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

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Other formulations

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Related treatment guides

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- [Headache](#)

Further information

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

Availability
 Rx and/or OTC

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

6.9 / 10

[41 Reviews](#)

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