



What's my Drug?

Doxycycline is an antibiotic. It can be used to treat a wide range of infections e.g. chest, dental, skin, bladder and in other locations. It can also be also used to prevent malaria.

How to take it: Take the capsules with some food. Wash them down with a generous drink of water, either standing up or sitting up. Do not take them just before going to bed or lying down. This makes sure the medicine gets to your stomach effectively and doesn't irritate your food pipe (oesophagus). Do not take indigestion remedies, or medicines containing calcium, iron or zinc, 2 hours before or after you take it. It won't work so well. Make sure you take the whole course of treatment. Bacteria can get resistant to antibiotics if you don't finish the course and possibly won't work so well for you in the future. After finishing the course take any unused or left-over medicine, back to the Pharmacy for safe disposal. Do not try to dispose of them at home or flush them down the toilet. Also, do not use any leftover medicine if you feel unwell at another time, and don't share it with anyone else; these could be dangerous.

Possible side effects include: Tummy upsets (sickness, diarrhoea and irritation of the oesophagus or food pipe. This is why you should be sat or stood up when you swallow this medicine). It can make your skin more sensitive to light so do not sunbathe or use sunlamps. It can cause chest pain (pericarditis). It can cause teeth to become discoloured, especially in children. You could get an allergic reaction. This could cause swelling of the face or mouth or breathing problems. Contact a doctor if you are worried about this.

Rare but important side effects include: It can also cause a particular form of diarrhoea where bacteria in the bowel overgrow and irritate the bowel linings (*Clostridium difficile* enteritis). It can also cause darkening of the skin (pigmentation), particularly on sun-exposed areas. So, tell your doctor if you get bad diarrhoea or skin changes. Hearing can be affected. You could get noises in your ears (tinnitus). It can affect vision. Contact your doctor if you get either of these.

Warnings and Cautions: Do not drink alcohol while taking this medicine. This medicine should not be used by children under 12 years of age unless there are compelling reasons. Do

not drive or operate machinery if your vision is affected. Check the Product Information Leaflet for full details of all its other potential side effects. For women: this medicine is not for use during pregnancy or breastfeeding.