

DOXYCYCLINE PATIENT INFORMATION

Doxycycline is an antibiotic, which is taken internally. It is very effective for acne and other forms of skin conditions. Doxycycline is taken one or two tablets per day. It is best to take the tablet the same time each day so that you get into the habit of taking it regularly. This is important for any form of skin problem. It does not matter whether you have a full stomach or empty stomach, as these pills are absorbed well under all circumstances. Fortunately they do not usually cause any stomach upset or nausea as other types of antibiotics can produce.

Although Doxycycline is an antibiotic, many of its beneficial effects have been found to be related to its anti-inflammatory effects. In skin conditions, such as acne, there is a significant amount of inflammation present. This is what produces the redness and swelling in the lesions. Doxycycline can help with this inflammation and this benefit has nothing to do with it being an antibiotic. Therefore, Doxycycline is a type of medication that can be taken for prolonged periods because it is not working as an antibiotic.

Doxycycline pills are remarkably safe even when taken for prolonged periods. As with any antibiotic there can be rare side effects such as stomach upset, rash, or allergic reactions. If any of these problems develop, please call my office.

Occasionally Doxycycline can produce a side effect noticed as sun sensitivity (developing a sun burn like reaction with minimal sun exposure). This problem is uncommon and would only be a concern in the summertime or while on vacation in a sunny climate. This problem can be prevented by the regular use of sunscreen products. If you would notice any sun reactions, please let me know.

As with any internal antibiotic, women can develop a vaginal yeast infection as a side effect. This only occurs in 1 or 2 out of 100 patients. You would notice this as itching and a vaginal discharge. If this problem would happen please continue to take the antibiotic pill and call me for a prescription to treat the yeast infection.

It is best not to take this medication just before you go to bed. This is because people have complained of it getting "stuck" on the way down. This can cause some heartburn and discomfort. In order to avoid this problem the medication can be taken at other times during the day. If you do take it at night drink a large glass of water and wait one hour before lying down.

Doxycycline interacts with very few other drugs. Pregnant or nursing mother should not take this type of medication.

If you have any other questions about this treatment, please ask me before you leave the office.