

Vibramycin (doxycycline) basics

Treats bacterial infections. Vibramycin (doxycycline) is good for treating many bacterial infections, but can increase your skin's sensitivity to sunlight and make you more likely to get a sunburn or rash.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Vibramycin (doxycycline) Drug effectiveness		[Blue gradient bar]			
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Skin rash	[Red gradient bar]				
Nausea	[Red gradient bar]				
Upset stomach	[Red gradient bar]				
Diarrhea	[Red gradient bar]				
Vomiting	[Red gradient bar]				
Photosensitivity		[Red gradient bar]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Vibramycin (doxycycline) is ideally taken without food. However, if you experience stomach upset and acid reflux, you can prevent this by taking Vibramycin (doxycycline) with some food and plenty of fluids.
- If you're using birth control pills, this medicine can make them less effective. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist about this concern.
- Wear sunblock when you go out into the sun since Vibramycin (doxycycline) can increase your chances of getting sunburned or a skin rash.
- Take vitamins, especially ones containing iron, magnesium, aluminum, or calcium at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after taking this medicine.
- Don't take iron supplements or medicine containing bismuth subsalicylate such as Pepto-Bismol or Kaopectate while you are on Vibramycin (doxycycline).
- Finish all of the medicine even if you start to feel better. Stopping early can cause the bacteria to develop resistance (when the bacteria survives and continues to do harm).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Color changes in teeth of young children and unborn babies

Vibramycin (doxycycline) can cause permanent color changes in the teeth of a fetus (unborn baby) and in children age 8 or younger. Usually, it can turn teeth into a yellow, gray, or brown color. Pregnant women and infants shouldn't take Vibramycin (doxycycline) unless no other alternative treatments are available.

Severe diarrhea

Although rare, Vibramycin (doxycycline) can cause a life-threatening bacterial infection. If you notice symptoms like watery diarrhea, fever, or stomach pain that does not go away, talk to your doctor right away. These symptoms can happen as late as over 2 months after you have stopped taking the medication.

Sunburn or rash

Vibramycin (doxycycline) can increase your skin's sensitivity to sunlight and make you more likely to get a sunburn or rash. While taking this medication, make sure to wear sunblock and/or wear protective clothing. Also avoid tanning salons since artificial light can cause a similar skin rash. If you do get a rash, tell your doctor and stop taking Vibramycin (doxycycline) right away.