

# Metrogel (metronidazole) basics

**Treats vaginal infections and acne rosacea.** Metrogel (metronidazole) is effective for bacterial infections or skin conditions, but you may need to avoid alcohol while using this.

## 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
<b>Metrogel (metronidazole)</b> Drug effectiveness			[Progressive blue bar from Week 1 to Month 3]		
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Skin irritation</b>	[Red bar from Hour 0 to Day 3]				
<b>Dry skin</b>	[Red bar from Hour 0 to Day 3]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Apply Metrogel (metronidazole) to the affected areas only.
- Avoid contact with eyes.
- If you're using Metrogel (metronidazole) in the vagina, don't have sex until you've finished the treatment.
- Drinking alcohol while using Metrogel (metronidazole) may lead to bad reactions.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Nerve damage

People who have taken the oral or injectable forms of Metrogel (metronidazole) have reported nerve problems. The risk of this side effect should be low when you're using gel or cream formulation, but let your doctor know if you experience burning, prickling, or numbness of your hands and feet.

### Contact dermatitis

Metrogel (metronidazole) may cause skin irritation and rash. This should go away once you're done using Metrogel (metronidazole), but if you get a severe blistering skin rash with a fever, go to the ER right away. It could be a sign of a life-threatening reaction.

### Eye irritation

Metrogel (metronidazole) may cause tearing and irritation of the eye. Wash your hands thoroughly before and after using Metrogel (metronidazole) and avoid contact with the eyes.