

## DOXYCYCLINE

*dox-ee-sye-kleen*

### What does it do?

*Doxycycline* is an antibiotic used to treat and prevent bacterial infections. It is also used for other conditions such as acne.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

### How should you take it?

Take *doxycycline* regularly as directed with a large glass of water. You can take it with or without food. Keep taking it until the course is finished.

*Doxycycline* can damage your oesophagus (food pipe). To avoid this, swallow the tablet whole with a large glass of water. Do not crush or chew it. Stay upright for at least 30 minutes after taking a dose.

### What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

### Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *doxycycline* including:

- products containing aluminium, calcium, iron or magnesium, such as antacids (e.g. Mylanta®) or multivitamins

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects  | Recommended action              |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing<br>Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain<br>Headache, changes in vision, pounding in one or both ears (may be intracranial hypertension)<br>Trouble swallowing, chest pain, indigestion or heartburn (new or getting worse) | Tell your doctor immediately    |
| Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain  | Tell your doctor                |
| Stomach upset<br>More sensitive to sunlight (sunburn or rash)   | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *doxycycline*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- *Doxycycline* is not usually given to children under 12 years of age. Talk to your doctor.