

MINOCYCLINE PATIENT INFORMATION

Minocycline (Minocin) is an antibiotic, which is taken internally. It is very effective for acne and other forms of skin conditions. Minocycline tablets are taken once or twice per day depending on your condition. It is best to take the tablets at the same time each day so that you get into the habit of taking them regularly. This is very 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. Dairy products can interfere with these pills getting into your system. You can drink all the milk you want but drink water or juice when you take the pill. Fortunately Minocycline does not usually cause any stomach upset or nausea as other types of antibiotics can produce.

Although Minocycline 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. Minocycline can help with this inflammation and this benefit has nothing to do with it being an antibiotic. Therefore, Minocycline is a type of medication that can be taken for prolonged periods because it is not working as an antibiotic.

Minocycline 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, allergic reactions or increased skin pigmentation. If any of these problems develop, please inform my office.

Occasionally Minocycline can produce a side effect, which is noted as a dizziness or lightheadedness in the first day or two of treatment. This problem usually disappears on its own while the pill is continued. If it would persist, please call my office so that I can change the medication.

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 occur, 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.

Minocycline interacts with very few other medications. Pregnant or nursing mothers should not take this type of medication.

If you have any other questions about your treatment with this antibiotic, please do not hesitate to ask me.