

In an Emergency: How to Prepare Doxycycline Hyclate for Children and Adults Who Cannot Swallow Pills

Follow the instructions below to prepare and give your child the **right amount** of medicine **every 12 hours** (once in the morning and once at night) **each day**, as long as directed. These instructions show you how to mix doxycycline hyclate 100 mg tablets with food or drink. Use the same directions for adults who cannot swallow pills.

Step A: Get the supplies you need.

- You will need: 1 doxycycline hyclate **tablet** (100 mg); 1 metal teaspoon; 1 oral syringe or medicine spoon (if available); 2 small bowls; small amount of drinking water (4 teaspoons or 20 mL)
 - You will also need 1 of the following foods or drinks to make the crushed doxycycline taste better: milk (including breast milk and formula for infants), chocolate milk, chocolate pudding or apple juice mixed with 2 to 4 teaspoons of sugar
- Note:** Doxycycline works just as well whether you take it with or without food or milk.

Step B: Soak the tablet in water and crush it.

- Put 1 doxycycline hyclate tablet in a small bowl.
- Add 4 teaspoons (20 mL) of water to the same bowl.
- Let the tablet **soak** in the water for at least **10 minutes** to soften it.
- Crush** the tablet with the back of the metal spoon until you can't see any pieces of the tablet in the water.
- Stir the tablet and water to mix it well. **You have now made the doxycycline and water mixture.**

Step C: Measure the right amount of doxycycline.

- Find your child's weight** on the chart below. *Weight is better, but if you don't know how much your child weighs, find your child's **age** on the chart.*
- Follow the row of your child's weight or age across to the column "**Amount of Doxycycline & Water Mixture to Measure.**"

Weight	Age	Amount of Doxycycline & Water Mixture to Measure*
12 pounds or less	Less than 1 month	½ teaspoon (2.5 mL) 
13 to 25 pounds	1 to 11 months	1 teaspoon (5 mL) 
26 to 50 pounds	1 to 5 years	2 teaspoons (10 mL) 
51 to 75 pounds	6 to 8 years	3 teaspoons (15 mL) 
76 pounds or more (Adult Dose)	9 years or older	4 teaspoons (20 mL) 

*Weight-range dosing based on 2.2 mg/kg derived dose calculation.

- Measure** the amount of doxycycline and water mixture for your child's weight or age from the first bowl.
*For a ½ **teaspoon** amount, fill the teaspoon halfway or use an oral syringe (if available). It is better to give a little more of the medicine than not enough.*
- Place this amount into the **second bowl**. This is **one dose** that should be mixed with food or drink.
For children weighing **76 pounds or more** and **adults** who cannot swallow pills:
Use all of the doxycycline and water mixture in the first bowl (4 teaspoons); the **entire contents of the first bowl** makes **one dose** that should be mixed with food or drink.

Step D: Mix the dose with food or drink. Then, give the dose.

- Mix** the **dose** (the measured amount of doxycycline and water mixture) in the second bowl with **3 teaspoons** of **one** of the following foods or drinks: milk (including breast milk and formula for infants), chocolate milk, chocolate pudding or apple juice mixed with 2 to 4 teaspoons of sugar. **You now have one dose, mixed with food or drink.**
- Stir well before serving it to your child.
- Give your child **all** of the doxycycline, water and food mixture from the second bowl. Make sure your child swallows all of it. This is one dose. Do this once **every 12 hours** (once in the morning AND once at night) **each day** for as long as directed.

What should you do with any leftover doxycycline and water mixture remaining in the first bowl?

- Throw it away** if your child weighs 51 pounds or more (6 years or older). You do NOT have enough left over to make another dose.
- Keep it** if your child weighs 50 pounds or less (5 years or younger). You will have enough left over to make another dose.
 - **Store** the **doxycycline and water mixture** in a covered bowl or cup at room temperature (between 68–77°F or 20–25°C) for up to 24 hours. **Write** the date, time and container contents on a label.
 - **Keep** the mixture in a safe place, out of the reach of children or pets.
 - **Throw away** any unused mixture after 24 hours and make a new doxycycline and water mixture for the next dose.



A [supplemental video](#) of these instructions is available by searching "doxycycline crushing instructions" on www.cdc.gov

