

CENTER FOR DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center
50 Sanatorium Road, Building D
Pomona, New York 10970
Phone: (845) 364-2997 Fax: (845) 364-3658



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

EDWIN J. DAY
County Executive

PATRICIA S. RUPPERT, DO, MPH, CPE, DABFM, FAAFP
Commissioner of Health

CHITRA PUNJABI, MD
Director, TB & Communicable Disease

Chlamydia Treatment Information Sheet Important Information About **Your** Health

(This Treatment Information Sheet is intended for sex partners of persons with Chlamydia)

Why am I getting this medicine (Doxycycline)?

One of your sex partners was diagnosed with and treated for one or more sexually transmitted infections (STIs). STIs are infections that spread during oral, anal, or genital sex. A health care provider gave your sex partner an antibiotic called Doxycycline to give to you so that you too can be treated for the same STI. You need treatment so you do not develop serious health problems, re-infect your sex partner(s) or pass the infection to others.

What infection(s) does my partner have?

Your sexual partner was diagnosed with Chlamydia.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Most people DO NOT experience or notice any signs or symptoms at all.

People who have male genitals – may notice a discharge (drip) from the penis, pain or discomfort while urinating (peeing), or pain or swelling in their testicles.

People who have female genitals – may notice an unusual vaginal discharge, or pain or burning when urinating (peeing) and increased need to urinate (pee); pain during sex, bleeding between periods or after sex, lower abdominal (belly), or pelvic (hip) pain or cramps or. People who have a uterus and ovaries can become infertile (unable to have children) if they don't get treated (medicine).

People who receive anal sex can develop rectal pain, rectal discharge, and/or bleeding.

Why should I take this medicine?

You need treatment so you do not develop serious health problems, re-infect your sex partner(s) or pass the infection to others. Even if you were diagnosed with and treated for an STI in the past, you can get it again. If left untreated, STIs can:

- Cause severe pain in the abdomen (belly) or rectum (butt)
- Cause infertility (inability to get pregnant)
- Cause painful or swollen testicles
- Increase the risk of having a tubal (ectopic) pregnancy
- Make it more likely to get or spread HIV
- Cause premature labor, low infant birth weight or other harm to a fetus

Will this medicine cure all STIs?

No, your medicine will not cure all STIs, but it will treat chlamydia, which is the same STI that your partner was treated for. If you have STI symptoms, call your health care provider or the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) Sexual Health Clinic at **845-364-3771**.

What should I do after taking this medicine?

Do not have oral, anal or vaginal sex for at least seven days after you AND your sex partner(s) have been treated. The medicine can take up to seven days to work. If you and your partner(s) do not wait at least seven days, the infection(s) could spread back and forth between partners, and no one will be cured.

How can I protect myself?

There are a few things that you can do to protect yourself from getting chlamydia or other STIs:

- 1) **Get tested for other STDs.** Even though the medicine that you have cures chlamydia, it does not cure all other STDs. Call the RCDOH Sexual health clinic at (845) 364-3771 or your health care provider to find out how to get tested for other STIs, including HIV.
- 2) **Take the medicine.** It is important to finish all the pills prescribed. If chlamydia is not treated, it can lead to serious health risks.
- 3) **Wait to have sex.** After you and your partner(s) each take the medicine, wait at least 7 days before you have any sex. This gives the medicine time to work. If you have sex too soon, you may re-infect yourself or your partner(s).
- 4) **Use a condom or dental dam.** When used correctly, latex or polyurethane condoms and dental dams can greatly reduce the risk of getting STIs, including chlamydia. If you are infected with HIV, or may have been exposed to HIV, you should contact your health care provider for a complete exam, including testing for STIs and HIV.

You received a prescription for EPT for Doxycycline. Please read below instructions PRIOR to taking DOXYCYCLINE (Vibramycin):

SAFETY OF DOXYCYCLINE:

- Doxycycline is safe and very effective when taken correctly.
- **DO NOT** take doxycycline and call your health care provider as soon as possible if any of the following are true:
 - **You are pregnant, think you could become pregnant in the next two weeks or are currently breastfeeding.**
 - You have ever had a bad reaction (such as trouble breathing, chest tightness, closing of the throat, swelling of the lips or tongue, rash) or allergy to any antibiotics, including doxycycline (Vibramycin), minocycline (Minocin), or tetracycline (Panmycin).
 - You are taking blood thinners or anti-seizure medications, or penicillin antibiotics.
 - You have any serious, long-term health problems like kidney, heart, or liver disease.

HOW TO TAKE DOXYCYCLINE:

- Take the medicine by mouth. Do not share it with others.
- Take the medicine as directed on the bottle and be sure to finish all the pills. The medicine will cure your infection only if you take the full treatment as directed and do not miss any doses.
- Take the medicine with food to avoid an upset stomach.
- DO NOT consume dairy products or take vitamin supplements (such as calcium or magnesium) within two hours of taking the medicine.

SIDE EFFECTS OF DOXYCYCLINE:

- Some side effects are common and not dangerous. These include diarrhea, nausea, stomachache, heartburn, throwing up or mouth soreness. Doxycycline can also cause sun sensitivity (including skin rash, itching, redness, or discoloration of the skin) when exposed to a lot of sunlight. If you have any questions, call your health care provider, or call RCDOH Sexual Health Clinic at (845) 364-3771.
- It is rare, but some people do experience serious allergic reactions to doxycycline. These reactions can cause breathing trouble, chest tightness, closing of the throat, swelling of the lips or tongue and hives (itchy bumps on the skin). If you experience any of these serious reactions after taking this medicine, immediately call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

RESUMING SEXUAL ACTIVITY

STOP having sex with others until you finish taking the medicine. If you have sex without a condom before finishing the medicine, you could still pass the infection to your sex partners, even if you have no symptoms. While using condoms correctly and consistently is effective, the safest way to make sure you do not pass this infection on to anyone else is to NOT have sex until you finish the medication.

If you have any questions about doxycycline or chlamydia, please call us at RCDOH Sexual Health Clinic at 845-364-3771.

TO INFORM OTHER SEX PARTNERS OF YOUR POSSIBLE CONDITION:

- Work with us at the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) Sexual Health Clinic to inform your sex partners of possible. Call us at 845-364-3771.
exposure to an infection, so that they may also be properly tested and/or treated.
- **If you have access to the internet, and want to send your sex partners an anonymous or confidential message:** www.tellyourpartner.org