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.**

1. Put 1 doxycycline hyclate tablet in a small bowl.
2. Add 4 teaspoons (20 mL) of water to the same bowl.
3. Let the tablet soak in the water for at least 10 minutes to soften it.
4. Crush the tablet with the back of the metal spoon until you can’t see any pieces of the tablet in the water.
5. 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.**

1. 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.
2. Follow the row of your child’s weight or age across to the column “Amount of Doxycycline & Water Mixture to Measure.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Amount of Doxycycline &amp; Water Mixture to Measure*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 pounds or less</td>
<td>Less than 1 month</td>
<td>½ teaspoon (2.5 mL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 25 pounds</td>
<td>1 to 11 months</td>
<td>1 teaspoon (5 mL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 50 pounds</td>
<td>1 to 5 years</td>
<td>2 teaspoons (10 mL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 75 pounds</td>
<td>6 to 8 years</td>
<td>3 teaspoons (15 mL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 pounds or more</td>
<td>9 years or older</td>
<td>4 teaspoons (20 mL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

3. 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.

4. 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.**

1. 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.
2. Stir well before serving it to your child.
3. 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