Donepezil

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it’s used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

**Brand Names: US**

Aricept

**Brand Names: Canada**

ACCEL-Donepezil [DSC]; ACT Donepezil ODT; ACT Donepezil [DSC]; APO-Donepezil; Aricept; Aricept RDT; Auro-Donepezil; BIO-Donepezil; JAMP-Donepezil; M-Donepezil; Mar-Donepezil; MINT-Donepezil; MYLAN-Donepezil [DSC]; NAT-Donepezil; PMS-Donepezil; RIVA-Donepezil [DSC]; SANDOZ Donepezil; SANDOZ Donepezil ODT; Septa-Donepezil; TARO-Donepezil; TEVA-Donepezil; VAN-Donepezil [DSC]

**What is this drug used for?**

- It is used to treat dementia in people with Alzheimer’s disease.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

**What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?**

- If you have an allergy to donepezil or any other part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.
Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

**What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This drug is not a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. Stay under the care of your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

**What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.
- Slow heartbeat.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Trouble passing urine.
- Seizures.
- Heartburn.
- Very bad belly pain.
- Throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds.
- Black, tarry, or bloody stools.
- Trouble breathing that is new or worse.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Muscle cramps.
- Not hungry.
- Weight loss.
- Headache.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at [https://www.fda.gov/medwatch](https://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

**How is this drug best taken?**

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

**All products:**

Donepezil
• Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
• Take this drug at bedtime.
• Take with or without food.
• Drink lots of noncaffeine liquids unless told to drink less liquid by your doctor.

**23 mg tablets:**

• Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

**Oral-disintegrating tablet:**

• Wash and dry your hands before you take this drug. Do not touch the tablet with wet or damp hands.
• Place on the tongue and let dissolve.
• Do not swallow it whole.
• Do not take this drug out of the blister pack until you are ready to take it. Take this drug right away after opening the blister pack. Do not store the removed drug for future use.
• Drink a glass of water after the tablet has dissolved.

**What do I do if I miss a dose?**

• Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
• Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
• If you miss 7 days of this drug, call your doctor to find out what to do.

**How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

• Store at room temperature.
• Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
• Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and
pets.

- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

**General drug facts**

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.

- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else’s drugs.

- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

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- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

**Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer**

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.