Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Minocycline (Systemic

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

CoreMino [DSC]; Minocin; Minolira; Solodyn; Ximino

Brand Names: Canada

CO Minocycline; TEVA-Minocycline [DSC]

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat or prevent bacterial infections.
- It is used to treat pimples (acne).
- 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 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.

- If you are taking any of these drugs: Acitretin, isotretinoin, or a penicillin.
- If you are trying to get pregnant or father a child.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Some forms of this drug are not for use during pregnancy.
- If you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. You may need to avoid breast-feeding.

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

All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.
- Do not use longer than you have been told. A second

infection may happen.

- This drug may make you sunburn more easily. Use care if you will be in the sun. Tell your doctor if you sunburn easily while taking this drug.
- Severe skin reactions may happen with this drug. These include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and other serious reactions. Sometimes, body organs may also be affected. These reactions can be deadly. Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin; red or irritated eyes; sores in your mouth, throat, nose, eyes, genitals, or any areas of skin; fever; chills; body aches; shortness of breath; or swollen glands.
- Liver problems have happened with this drug. Sometimes, these have been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Raised pressure in the brain has happened with this drug. Most of the time, this will go back to normal after this drug is stopped. Sometimes, loss of eyesight may happen and may not go away even after this drug is stopped. Call your doctor right away if you have a

headache or eyesight problems like blurred eyesight, seeing double, or loss of eyesight.

- Cases of thyroid cancer have been reported with long-term use of this drug. Call your doctor right away if you notice lasting hoarseness, a neck mass, or trouble breathing or swallowing.
- This drug may cause a change in tooth color to yellow-gray-brown in children younger than 8 years old. If this change of tooth color happens, it will not go away. Talk with the doctor.
- Change in tooth color has also happened in adults. This has gone back to normal after this drug was stopped and teeth cleaning at a dentist’s office. Talk with the doctor.
- Birth control pills and other hormone-based birth control may not work as well to prevent pregnancy. Use some other kind of birth control also like a condom when taking this drug.
- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.

All extended-release products:

- This drug is not approved for use in children younger than 12 years old. Talk with the doctor.
- Do not give to a child younger than 8 years of age.

All other products:

- Most of the time, this drug is not for use in children younger than 8 years old. However, there may be times when these children may need to take this drug. Talk with the doctor.

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:

All products:

- 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.

- Signs of a pancreas problem (pancreatitis) like very bad stomach pain, very bad back pain, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of kidney problems like unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Signs of lupus like a rash on the cheeks or other body parts, sunburn easy, muscle or joint pain, chest pain or shortness of breath, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Fever, chills, or sore throat; any unexplained bruising or bleeding; or feeling very tired or weak.
- Change in hearing.
- Joint pain or swelling.
- Muscle pain or weakness.
- Ringing in ears.
- Seizures.
- Shortness of breath.
- Chest pain.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Swelling.
- Change in color of nails, skin, eyes, scars, teeth, or

gums to a darker color.

- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Redness or white patches in mouth or throat.
- Rectal irritation.
- Genital irritation.
- Vaginal itching or discharge.
- Diarrhea is common with antibiotics. Rarely, a severe form called C diff–associated diarrhea (CDAD) may happen. Sometimes, this has led to a deadly bowel problem. CDAD may happen during or a few months after taking antibiotics. Call your doctor right away if you have stomach pain, cramps, or very loose, watery, or bloody stools. Check with your doctor before treating diarrhea.

Injection:

- Flushing.
- Sweating a lot.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Trouble moving around.
- Feeling cold.

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:

All products:

- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Decreased appetite.
- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.

Injection:

- Irritation where the shot is given.

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.

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 oral products:

- Use as you have been told, even if your signs get better.
- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Take with or without food. Take with food if it causes an upset stomach.
- Do not take products that have iron in them or products like antacids that have aluminum, calcium, or magnesium in them at the same time as this drug. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist.
- Drink lots of noncaffeine liquids unless told to drink less liquid by your doctor.

Tablets and capsules:

- Swallow whole with a full glass of water.

Extended-release capsules:

- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.
- Take with a full glass of water.

Extended-release tablets:

- Swallow whole. Do not chew or crush.
- Take with a full glass of water.
- Some products may be broken in half. If you are not sure if you can break this product in half, talk with the doctor.

Injection:

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

What do I do if I miss a dose?
All oral products:

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

Injection:

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?
All oral products:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

- Protect from heat and light.
- Get rid of this drug when you no longer need it.
- Do not take this drug if it is outdated.

Injection:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

All products:

- 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.

- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- 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 generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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