



## PATIENT FACT SHEET

# Minocycline (Minocin)



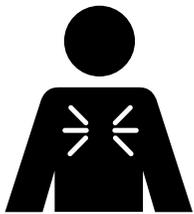
### WHAT IS IT?

**Minocycline (minocin) is an anti-inflammatory antibiotic sometimes used to treat mild rheumatoid arthritis (RA).** It belongs to the group of antibiotics, called tetracycline, which are typically used to treat infections. Although RA is not thought to be caused by an infection, minocycline may improve the signs and symptoms of this disease. Because it has been studied less and may be less effective than other options, it is not as commonly prescribed in RA.



### HOW TO TAKE IT

**Minocycline is usually taken as a 100 mg capsule twice a day.** It may be taken with food but should not be taken with other medications such as antacids or iron tablets. It has a slow onset and may take several months to work.



### SIDE EFFECTS

**The most common side effects from this medicine are gastrointestinal upset, dizziness, and skin rash.** Patients who take this medication for a long time may notice changes in their skin color, but this usually resolves after stopping the medication. Some women who take minocycline develop vaginal yeast infections. Minocycline may increase sensitivity to sunlight, resulting in more frequent sunburns or the development of rashes following sun exposure. Avoiding prolonged sun exposure and sunscreen is recommended.

Rarely, minocycline can affect the kidneys or liver. Doctors may recommend periodic blood tests for long-term users to check liver and kidney function. In equally

rare cases, minocycline can cause drug-induced lupus, but this condition usually improves after stopping the medication.

Minocycline is passed into breast milk, so mothers should avoid breast-feeding in order to prevent delayed development of teeth and bones in their infants. Minocycline can increase a nursing infant's risk of fungal infections or dizziness. Because minocycline may cause discoloration of teeth and problems with bone growth in young children, it is recommended that those younger than eight years old do not take this medication. This is not a problem in older children and adults.



### TELL YOUR DOCTOR

**Talk to your doctor if you become pregnant, are planning to become pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding.** Minocycline should not be given during pregnancy or used when breastfeeding. If you have had allergic reactions to minocycline or other tetracycline antibiotics, let your doctor know. Be sure to tell your doctor about all of the medications you are taking,

including over-the-counter drugs and natural remedies. Possible interactions with minocycline may occur when taking warfarin (Coumadin); antacids containing calcium, aluminum, or magnesium (such as Tums, Roloids, Maalox, or Mylanta); iron tablets; oral contraceptives (birth control pills); tretinoin ("retinoids"); Accutane; Soriatane; and methotrexate.