



Medication Fact Sheet

Generic Name Metronidazole

Trade Name Flagyl

**-available in 250mg, 375mg, 500mg,
750mgER**

What is metronidazole and what is it used for?

This medication is an antibiotic that kills bacteria and clears up infection within the body. Metronidazole is used for many different bacterial infections. When used with other antibiotics it can cure the stomach infection called *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis. It is also used for treating infections in children with pediatric Crohn's disease.

Is there anything I need to know when my child is taking mesalamine?

Things to remember when your child is taking this drug:

- can be taken with or without food
- can be taken with milk to avoid stomach upset
- take each dose at evenly spaced intervals
- take each dose at approximately the same time each day
- keep out of the reach of small children
- store in a tightly closed container at room temperature

What if my child misses a dose?

If your child misses a dose, make sure they take it as soon as possible once you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular schedule. Do not double up on the doses.

Are there medications that my child cannot take with metronidazole?

Make sure that your child's healthcare provider knows if he or she is on any of the following medicines as metronidazole may increase or decrease the effectiveness of these medications.

- **phenobarbital**
- **antacids**
- **blood thinners** such as Coumadin
- **Cholestyramine** (Questran)
- **Disulfiram** (Antabuse)
- **Cimetidine** (Tagamet)
- **Lithium** (Eskalith)
- **Phenytoin** (Dilantin)

If you have to add a drug between your child's scheduled doctor's visits, remember to check with your pharmacist to make sure there are no known interactions.

Is it safe for my child to take metronidazole for long periods of time?

Long-term use in children is generally safe but can require a doctor's supervision and monitoring.

Are there any side effects of metronidazole?

Adverse reactions can occur with any drug. Minor reactions may go away on their own but if they persist, contact your child's healthcare provider. For major reactions contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.

Minor:

- headache
- fatigue
- dry mouth
- dizziness and sleepiness
- metallic taste in mouth
- stomach cramps
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea – contact healthcare provider if diarrhea continues for more than 24 hours
- rash, hives, itching – contact healthcare provider, can be allergic reaction

Major:

- *change in mood
- *seizures
- *fever
- *unsteadiness
- *sore throat
- *numbness, weakness in hands/feet
- *pain in hands/feet