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Treatment for Mycoplasma Genitalium Patient Information Leaflet

Working in partnership with Terrence Higgins Trust in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, and with Brook in Bedfordshire



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What is *Mycoplasma genitalium*?

Mycoplasma genitalium is a sexually transmitted infection caused by a bacterium called *mycoplasma genitalium*. It often causes no symptoms but if not treated it can cause complications and serious long-term health problems.

How is *Mycoplasma genitalium* treated?

Mycoplasma genitalium is treated with a course of two antibiotics, doxycycline and azithromycin. These work by preventing the bacteria responsible for the infection from generating a protein it needs to grow and sustain itself. Once the infection can no longer spread, the immune system kills off the bacteria.

How should I take the treatment?

When used to treat *Mycoplasma genitalium*, doxycycline is taken for seven days and then azithromycin is taken for three days according to the schedule below:

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Drug Name and Strength	Doxycycline 100mg capsules	Doxycycline 100mg capsules	Doxycycline 100mg capsules	Doxycycline 100mg capsules	Doxycycline 100mg capsules
Directions	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart

	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Drug Name and Strength	Doxycycline 100mg capsules	Doxycycline 100mg capsules	Azithromycin 250mg tablets	Azithromycin 250mg tablets	Azithromycin 250mg tablets
Directions	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day 12 hours apart	Take FOUR tablets as a SINGLE dose	Take TWO tablets ONCE DAILY	Take TWO tablets ONCE DAILY

Doxycycline capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water whilst standing or sitting upright. It is important not to lie down for at least 30 minutes after taking the capsules so that they can move as swiftly as possible into the stomach and prevent irritation of the throat or oesophagus (the tube taking food from the mouth to the stomach).

Azithromycin tablets should be swallowed whole, preferably with a drink of water, with or without food.

If you forget to take your medicine, continue the prescribed course as planned as soon as you remember. Do not make up for a missed dose by taking a double dose. It is important to ensure that you complete the course, even if your symptoms go away before you've finished it.

Am I likely to experience side effects from these medicines?

Like all medicines, doxycycline and azithromycin may cause side effects although not everybody gets them.

Doxycycline may cause skin reactions, sensitivity to sunlight or sunburn, headaches or vision problems, diarrhoea, stomach pain, feeling or being sick, loss of appetite, low blood pressure, aching joints or muscles, unusual rapid heartbeats and ringing or buzzing noise in the ear.

The most common side effects associated with azithromycin include diarrhoea, headache, feeling or being sick and stomach pain. Please note that the list of side effects is not exhaustive.

For more detailed information, please consult the patient information leaflets supplied with the medicines.

Can I take these medicines with other medicines?

If you are taking any other medicines, please ensure that you tell your clinician as both azithromycin and doxycycline may affect the way other medicines work and other medicines may affect the way azithromycin and doxycycline work, reducing their effectiveness or increasing the risk of side effects.

Can I take these medicines if I am, or could be, pregnant or am breastfeeding?

Please tell your clinician if you could be pregnant or are breastfeeding; this treatment may not be suitable for you if you are pregnant and is not recommended for use in breastfeeding mothers.

Am I allergic to anything in the medicine?

The ingredients of the capsules and tablets may vary depending on the brand you are issued. Always check the patient information leaflet supplied with your medicine to check that it does not contain any ingredients that you are allergic to. Please note that some versions of azithromycin tablets may contain soya oil and so not be suitable if you are allergic to nuts or soya.

How do I store my medicines?

You should store your medicines at room temperature (less than 25°C) in a safe place out of the reach of children.