In an Emergency: How to Prepare Doxycycline Hyclate for Children and Adults Who Cannot Swallow Pills

Follow the instructions below to prepare and give your child the **right amount** of medicine **every 12 hours** (once in the morning and once at night) **each day** as long as directed. These instructions show you how to mix doxycycline hyclate 100 mg tablets with food or drink. Use same directions for adults who cannot swallow pills. Also see "Anthrax Emergency: How to Take Doxcycyline to Prevent Anthrax" instructions.

Step 1: Get the supplies you need.

- 1 doxycycline hyclate **tablet** (100 mg); 1 metal teaspoon; 1 oral syringe or medicine spoon (if available); 2 small bowls; small amount of drinking water (4 teaspoons or 20 mL)
- 1 of these foods or drinks to make the crushed doxycycline taste better*: a) milk, including breast milk and formula for infants, b) chocolate milk, c) chocolate pudding, or d) apple juice mixed with 2 to 4 teaspoons of sugar
  *Doxycycline works just as well whether you take it with or without food or milk.

Step 2: Soak the tablet in water and crush it.

1. Put 1 doxycycline hyclate tablet in a small bowl.
2. Add 4 teaspoons (20 mL) of water to the same bowl.
3. Let the tablet **soak** in the water for at least **10 minutes** to soften it.
4. **Crush** the tablet with the back of the metal spoon until you can't see any pieces of the tablet in the water.
5. Stir the tablet and water to mix it well. **You have now made the doxycycline and water mixture.**

Step 3: Measure the right amount of doxycycline.

1. **Find your child's weight** on the chart below. *Weight is better, but if you don't know how much your child weighs, find your child's **age** on the chart.*
2. Follow the row of your child's weight or age across to the column, "**Amount of Doxycycline & Water Mixture to Measure**."

Weight	Age	Amount of Doxycycline & Water Mixture to Measure
12 pounds or less	**Less than 1 month**	**½ teaspoon (2.5 mL)**
13 to 25 pounds	**1 to 11 months**	**1 teaspoon (5 mL)**
26 to 50 pounds	**1 to 5 years**	**2 teaspoons (10 mL)**
51 to 75 pounds	**6 to 8 years**	**3 teaspoons (15 mL)**
76 pounds or more (Adult Dose)	**9 years or older**	**4 teaspoons (20 mL)**

3. **Measure** the amount of doxycycline and water mixture for your child's weight or age from the first bowl.

*For a **½ teaspoon** amount, fill the teaspoon half way or use an oral syringe (if available). It is better to give a little more of the medicine than not enough*. Place this amount into the **second bowl**. This is **one dose** that should be mixed with food or drink. For children weighing 76 pounds or more, and adults who cannot swallow pills, **use all** of the doxycycline and water mixture in the first bowl (4 teaspoons); the **entire contents of the first bowl** makes **one dose** that should be mixed with food or drink.

Step 4: Mix the dose with food or drink. Then, give the dose.

1. **Mix** the **dose** (the measured amount of doxycycline and water mixture) in the second bowl with **3 teaspoons** of one of the following foods or drinks: a) milk, including breast milk and formula for infants, b) chocolate milk, c) chocolate pudding, or d) apple juice mixed with 2 to 4 teaspoons of sugar. **You now have one dose, mixed with food or drink**.
2. Stir well before serving it to your child.
3. Give your child **all** of the doxycycline, water and food mixture in the second bowl. Watch them swallow all of it. This is one dose. Do this once **every 12 hours** (once in the morning AND once at night) **each day** for as long as directed.

What should you do with any leftover doxycycline and water mixture remaining in the first bowl?

- **Throw it away** if your child weighs 51 pounds or more (or is 6 years or older). You do NOT have enough left over to make another dose.
- **Keep it** if your child weighs 50 pounds or less (or is 5 years or younger). You will have enough left over to make another dose. Use within 24 hours.
  - **Store** the **doxycycline and water mixture** in a covered bowl or cup at room temperature (between 68-77˚F or 20-25˚C) for only up to 24 hours. **Write** the date, time, and container contents on a label.
  - **Keep** the mixture in a safe place, out of the reach of children or pets.
  - **Throw away** any unused mixture after 24 hours and make a new doxycycline and water mixture for the next dose.

To **watch a video** of these instructions go to www.cdc.gov and search "doxycycline crushing instructions".