

# Tetracycline tablets 250mg

## Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

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### 1 What Tetracycline tablets are and what they are used for

Tetracycline belongs to a group of medicines called tetracycline antibiotics. It is also known as a broad-spectrum antibiotic and may be used to treat a wide range of infections caused by bacteria, these include:

- respiratory tract infections such as pneumonia, bronchitis or whooping cough
- urinary tract infections
- sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis
- skin infections such as acne
- infections of the eye such as conjunctivitis
- rickettsial infections such as Q fever or tick fever
- other infections including brucellosis, psittacosis, plague, cholera
- tetracycline may also be used to treat leptospirosis, gas-gangrene and tetanus.

### 2 Before you take

**Do not take** Tetracycline tablets and **tell** your doctor if you:

- are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to tetracycline, other similar antibiotics (such as minocycline or doxycycline) or any other ingredient in the tablet (see section 6)
- have had **kidney** or **liver** problems for a long time or **severe kidney** disease
- have systemic lupus erythematosus (**SLE**), a condition characterised by a rash (especially on the face), hair loss, fever, malaise and joint pain
- are giving it to a **child under 12** years old.

**Take special care** with Tetracycline tablets and **tell** your doctor if you:

- suffer from **myasthenia gravis**, a condition characterised by muscle weakness, difficulty chewing and swallowing and slurred speech
- have **kidney** or **liver** disease
- are sensitive to **sunlight**.

### Taking other medicines

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Especially:

- **penicillins** such as phenoxymethylpenicillin (to treat infections)
- **vitamin A**
- **retinoids** such as acitretin, isotretinoin and tretinoin (to treat acne)
- **oral contraceptives** (the pill). Tetracycline tablets may make the oral contraceptive pill less effective. You should use additional contraceptive precautions whilst taking tetracycline and for 7 days after stopping
- **anticoagulants** (to stop the blood clotting)
- **diuretics** (water tablets such as furosemide)
- **kaolin-pectin** and **bismuth** subsalicylate (to treat diarrhoea)
- medicines to **treat diabetes** such as insulin, glibenclamide or gliclazide
- medicines which can **damage your liver** (check with your doctor or pharmacist to see if this applies to any medicines you are taking)
- **methoxyflurane** (an anaesthetic, if you need an operation, tell your doctor or dentist you are taking tetracycline)
- **atovaquone** (to treat pneumonia)
- medicines such as **antacids** or other medicines containing **aluminium, calcium, iron, magnesium, bismuth** or **zinc** salts. Do not take at the same time as Tetracycline tablets, as absorption of tetracycline may be reduced
- **sucralfate** (to treat ulcers)
- **lithium** (to treat bipolar disorder, depression)
- **digoxin** (to treat an uneven heartbeat (arrhythmia))
- **methotrexate** (used in rheumatoid arthritis)
- **strontium ranelate** (for osteoporosis)
- **colestipol** or **colestyramine** (to treat high cholesterol)
- **ergotamine** and **methysergide** (to treat or prevent migraine)

### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or are breastfeeding ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine as tetracycline could harm the baby.

### Tests

During long term treatment blood, kidney and liver tests will be carried out.

### Taking with food or milk

Do not take the tablets at the same time as milk or food, as they can make the medicine less effective.

## 3 How to take

Always take Tetracycline tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. If you are not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Swallow the tablets **one hour before or two hours after meals**, followed by a glass of water. Swallow the tablets when standing or sitting down, do not take them immediately before going to bed.

The usual doses are for at least 10 days unless otherwise directed by your doctor:

### • Adults, Elderly and Children 12 years or over:

**General infections:** 1 tablet (250mg) every 6 hours, you may be given 2 tablets (500mg) initially. For severe infections your doctor may increase your dosage to 500mg (2 tablets) every 6 hours.

### Specific infections:

Skin infections: 1-2 tablets (250-500mg) daily either as a single dose or in divided doses for three months.

Brucellosis: 2 tablets (500mg) four times a day with streptomycin.

Sexually transmitted diseases: 2 tablets (500mg) four times a day for between 7 and 30 days depending on your condition.

### • Children under 12 years old:

Tetracycline tablets are not recommended for use in children under 12 years of age as it can cause permanent discolouration of tooth enamel and affect bone development.

### If you take more than you should

If you (or someone else) swallow a lot of tablets at the same time, or you think a child may have swallowed any contact your nearest hospital casualty department or tell your doctor immediately.

### If you forget to take the tablets

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose take it as soon as you remember it and then take the next dose at the right time.

### If you stop taking the tablets

Do not stop treatment early as your infection may return if you do not finish the course of tablets.

## 4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Tetracycline tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Stop taking** the tablets **immediately** and seek urgent medical advice if the following occur:

- Symptoms of an allergic reaction: skin rash which may be itchy, swelling of your face, eyelids, lips or tongue, sudden wheezing, chest pain or tightness, breathing difficulties, collapse.
- Symptoms of raised pressure in the skull: headache, dizziness, 'ringing' in the ears, visual problems including blurred vision, 'blind spots', double vision.
- Symptoms of a severe skin rash: this may include fever, blisters or ulcers, reddening, peeling or swelling of the skin.
- A decrease in or loss of vision/eyesight
- Severe or prolonged diarrhoea which may have blood or mucus in it, during or after treatment with Tetracycline, as this may be a sign of serious bowel inflammation.

**Tell your doctor** if any of the following side effects occur:

### Rare (affects fewer than 1 in 1,000 people)

- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), liver failure or jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes), changes in liver function (seen in blood tests)

- increased levels of urea, phosphates or acid in the blood or changes in the numbers and types of your blood cells. If you notice increased bruising, nosebleeds, sore throats, infections, excessive tiredness, breathlessness on exertion or abnormal paleness of the skin, you should tell your doctor who may want you to have a blood test
- ulcers or swelling in the throat, difficulty swallowing
- kidney failure, nephritis (may cause swollen ankles or high blood pressure)

### Other (how often these side effects happen is not known)

- redness or colour change of the skin, raised, itchy, blistered or flaky skin, sensitivity to sunlight, thrush or irritation around your bottom and genital area
- if you suffer from SLE (Systemic lupus erythematosus) tetracycline tablets may make your symptoms worse
- if you suffer from Myasthenia Gravis tetracycline tablets may cause an increase in muscle weakness
- headache, feeling or being sick, diarrhoea, stomach upsets, loss of appetite, discolouration of tooth enamel, inflammation of the tongue or mouth, intestines or pancreas (causing discomfort of pain in the abdomen)
- poor kidney function (changes in the need to or frequency to pass water, swelling in the legs or ankles)
- fatty liver (causes tiredness, discomfort in your upper abdomen)
- discoloured thyroid tissue (no changes in thyroid function are known to occur)

If you notice any side effects, they get worse, or if you notice any not listed, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

## 5 How to store

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not store above 25°C and keep in the original package. If in a polypropylene container keep the container tightly closed. Do not use Tetracycline tablets after the expiry date stated on the label/carton/bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## 6 Further information

### What Tetracycline tablets contain

- The active substance (the ingredient that makes the tablets work) is Tetracycline hydrochloride.
- The other ingredients in the tablet are sodium lauryl sulphate, hydroxypropylcellulose (E463), colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate.
- The tablet coating contains methylhydroxypropylcellulose (E464), propylene glycol, purified talc (E553), sunset yellow FCF aluminium lake (E110), titanium dioxide (E171), erythrosine (E127).

### What Tetracycline tablets look like and contents of the pack

Tetracycline tablets are orange, circular, biconvex, film coated tablets which come in one strength. Each tablet contains 250mg of the active ingredient.

Pack size 28

### Marketing Authorisation Holder and manufacturer

Actavis, Barnstaple, EX32 8NS, UK

This leaflet was last revised in May 2011.

