Creating Liquid Doxycycline for infants and children exposed to a disease

How to Make Liquid Doxycycline
25 mg per 5 mL (teaspoon)

You will need:
- One (1) 100 mg doxycycline tablet
- Something heavy to crush the tablet, such as a metal spoon, the bottom of a cup or glass or a hammer
- Measuring teaspoon(s), regular eating teaspoon, medicine cup or medicine syringe
- Water and one of the following: sugar, milk, chocolate or flavored syrup, apple juice or apple sauce
- One (1) bowl or cup
- These directions

Please read all instructions before you begin.

Step 1

Put one (1) 100 mg doxycycline tablet into a small bowl. Crush into powder using the back of the metal teaspoon or the bottom of a cup or glass.

You can also place the tablet in a plastic bag and crush it with something heavy like a hammer or rolling pin.

The powder should not have any large pieces of medicine.

Add four (4) teaspoons of water into the medicine powder.

Mix well until the powder dissolves and there is no more powder left at the bottom of the bowl.

Step 2

Weigh your child. Use your child’s weight to find the correct dosage on the chart below.

Weight: ___________ lbs

Dosage Chart
- You can find out how much medicine to give your child based on your child’s weight.
- Use this chart to find the amount for one (1) dose.
- Give this dose two (2) time(s) a day - once in the morning and once in the evening - for as many days as you were told to give this medication.

Doxycycline Dosage Chart for Children*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Dose (teaspoon)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 7 lbs</td>
<td>1/4 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 lbs - 12 lbs</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 12 lbs to 19 lbs</td>
<td>3/4 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 19 lbs to 25 lbs</td>
<td>1 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 25 lbs to 37 lbs</td>
<td>1 &amp; 1/2 teaspoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 37 lbs to 50 lbs</td>
<td>2 teaspoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 50 lbs to 62 lbs</td>
<td>2 &amp; 1/2 teaspoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 62 lbs to 75 lbs</td>
<td>3 teaspoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75 lbs to 87 lbs</td>
<td>3 &amp; 1/2 teaspoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 87 lbs</td>
<td>1 whole tablet (100mg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Dosage applicable for prophylaxis against anthrax, plague and tularemia. Dosage range for patients 7 lbs - 87 lbs is from 2.2 mg/kg/dose to 3.9 mg/kg/dose (average is 2.7 mg/kg/dose). Dosage range for infants <7 lbs 2 - 3.1 mg/kg/dose.

If you do not have a measuring teaspoon or a medication syringe, then use a regular teaspoon. When using a regular teaspoon it may be hard to measure portions (1/4, 1/2, or 3/4) of a teaspoon. Do the best you can. It is better to give a little more medicine than not enough.

See reverse for more directions.
How to Make Liquid Doxycycline

My child’s name ____________________
My child’s dose is ___________________

Mix this amount with food or liquid. See below.

Step 3

This medicine tastes better mixed with a little milk, table sugar or any other sweet food or drink.

One (1) dose of doxycycline liquid

Mix with:
Chocolate foods or drinks like chocolate syrup, chocolate milk or chocolate pudding are best.
Apple juice or apple sauce sweetened with extra table sugar

Mix well before using.

You may use this medicine for up to 24 hours if it is kept covered and stored at room temperature or in the refrigerator. Throw away any unused liquid after 24 hours and mix fresh every day.

Step 4

How to give the medicine to an infant:

Bottle Nipple:
Mix the medicine with one or two teaspoons of formula or breast milk inside the nipple of the bottle. Let your infant suck on the nipple until all the medicine is gone.

Medicine Syringe:
Mix the medicine as described in Step 3. Remove cap from tip of syringe. Place tip of syringe into the medicine mix and draw up into the syringe. Squirt the medicine into the mouth along the side of the cheek. Make sure the child drinks all the liquid mixed with the medicine.

For older children:
Make sure your child eats or drinks all the food or drink that is mixed with the medicine. It may be helpful to have the child suck on an ice cube or fruit flavored popsicle before and after giving this medication. This may help cover up the bad taste.

Important Information:
Mix well before using
Give this medication one hour before or two hours after your child takes any of these:
- Vitamins, iron, antacids or sucralfate (a medicine)

Possible Side Effects of Doxycycline
- Upset stomach, throwing up, and/or diarrhea
- Sunburn - use sunscreen on your child before going out in the sun
- Possible permanent staining of teeth

Warnings
Stop use and seek medical help if your child develops any of these rare but dangerous symptoms:
- Allergic effects such as: trouble breathing; closing of the throat; swelling of lips, tongue or face; hives
- Painful swallowing
- Yellowing of skin or eyes, dark urine, stomach pain, throwing up and/or loss of appetite
- Bulging soft spot in infants

For more information about doxycycline, go to: 

If you have further questions, contact your family physician, local pharmacist, or the state designated help line.

Funded by a federal grant from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Content developed by the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children program and the Pediatric Preparedness Workgroup. Illustrations provided by Loyola University Health System, Maywood, Illinois.

Note: Information contained in this brochure was adapted from the U. S. Food and Drug Administration information card, “How to Prepare Emergency Dosages of Doxycycline at Home for Infants and Children.”

Revised February, 2014