



New Mexico Department of Health Guidelines for Expedited Partner Treatment (EPT) of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

On Jan. 10th, 2007 the New Mexico Practice Act was amended to allow for Expedited Partner Treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

Background:

Expedited Partner Treatment (EPT) is a mechanism for providers to treat patients with whom they have not established a therapeutic relationship, in order to prevent re-infection of an index patient. Heterosexual patients with uncomplicated gonorrhea or chlamydia have lower rates of re-infection when their sexual partners are provided with EPT, according to published research supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A “Dear Colleague” letter dated May 11, 2005 from Dr. John M. Douglas Jr., Director of the CDC Division of STD Prevention, stated that the “CDC has concluded that EPT is a useful option to facilitate partner management, particularly for treatment of male partners of women with chlamydial infection or gonorrhea.” Dr. Douglas’s letter urged state health departments to work toward removing legal and administrative barriers that prevent use of EPT.

A complete review of the studies and recommendations were published in 2006 by the CDC in “Expedited Partner Therapy in the Management of Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Review and Guidance.” The report is available online: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/EPTFinalReport2006.pdf>.

The New Mexico Medical Board amended the Medical Practice Act to allow health professionals to offer EPT to partners of patients with STDs under guidelines developed by the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH). The guidelines follow:

Expedited Partner Treatment Guidelines:

These guidelines are to assist clinicians in deciding when to offer EPT and outline procedures to follow when choosing this option.

General Principles:

The best approach is for the partner(s) of a patient diagnosed with any STD to be evaluated, examined, tested, counseled, and treated by a medical provider. The index patient who is diagnosed with an STD should be counseled to have their sexual partner(s) evaluated by their own primary care provider or at a public health clinic, and not to resume sexual intercourse with that partner until the partner has been adequately treated. Ideally, a written referral is provided to every patient with an STD that states the diagnosis, the treatment provided, and where the partner may obtain medical care. (Referral forms are available from the NMDOH STD Program).

Patients diagnosed with gonorrhea, chlamydia, or trichomoniasis should be encouraged to notify all of the people with whom they have had sexual contact within the past two months. The partner(s) should be told the specific infection that they have been exposed to and offered a written referral. The patient may be offered EPT if the patient believes that their partner(s) will refuse to seek care or will not be able to obtain medical care.

Medication for EPT should be provided for all sexual partners within two months prior to diagnosis or onset of symptoms. If there were no partners in the past two months, then the most recent sexual partner should be treated. **Medications should not be provided to treat other sexual partners of partners to the index case.** Additional partners of a partner who is given EPT should be encouraged to seek medical evaluation, especially if they are experiencing symptoms of an STD.

EPT for Female Partners:

The most appropriate patients for EPT are the male partners of women with a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of gonorrhea, chlamydia, or trichomoniasis.

Clinicians do have the option of providing EPT for female partners of patients with gonorrhea, chlamydia, or trichomoniasis infections. Heterosexual male patients with gonorrhea or chlamydia should be informed that it would be best for their female partners to have a medical evaluation, but if they feel that their partner is unwilling or unable to seek care, then EPT may be provided **unless the partner is known to be pregnant. Medications should not generally be provided to pregnant partners. Refer pregnant women to their prenatal care provider or to another medical provider.**

Men Who Have Sex With Men:

There are no studies demonstrating the effectiveness of EPT for men who have sex with men (MSM). MSM who are contacts to gonorrhea or chlamydia should be examined and tested for other STDs, such as syphilis and HIV, and therefore male partners of MSM should be encouraged to seek medical evaluation whenever possible.

Making Contact With Partners and Documentation:

A note in the index patient's medical chart should document the number of partners who are being provided with EPT, the medication and dosage being provided, and whether the partner is known to be allergic to any medications. It is recommended that the names of partners receiving EPT not be written in the index patient's chart. Sexual partners do not require a medical chart in order to be provided with EPT.

Whenever possible, telephone contact should be made with the sexual partner(s) to explain the reason for providing EPT, to ask about allergies to medications, medical problems, medications being taken, to ask about other symptoms of STDs (such as whether there are sores, ulcers, discharge, testicular, or abdominal pains that need medical evaluation), and to answer questions. Female partners for EPT should be asked if they are pregnant or breastfeeding, and if they have any symptoms such as abdominal pain that will require immediate medical evaluation. Partners should be advised to abstain from intercourse for seven days after taking the medication.

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are reportable diseases. Clinicians are required to report infections to the NMDOH. Reporting forms are available on the NMDOH website (<http://www.health.state.nm.us/std.html>). The index patient and their named partners may be

contacted for purposes of contact tracing by NMDOH staff. Contact the NMDOH Regional Office or the STD Program for further information.

Medication may be provided in the following ways:

(The New Mexico Board of Pharmacy adopted language to permit EPT under NMDOH Guidelines on Oct. 29, 2007.)

1. Medication may be provided to the index patient to take to his or her partner(s).
2. Separate prescriptions may be written for the index patient and his or her partner(s).
3. If the index patient will not, or is not able to, identify the partner(s) by name, the provider may write a prescription for an “unnamed partner.”

Recommended Treatments:

For chlamydial infection

Partners of patients with chlamydial infection should be treated with azithromycin 1gram PO unless the partner is allergic to macrolide antibiotics. In this situation, consult the STD Treatment Guidelines (see below) or contact a consulting physician for further instructions.

For gonorrhea

Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM PLUS azithromycin 1 gm PO is the recommended regimen for all cases of uncomplicated uro-genital and pharyngeal gonococcal infections. Dual antibiotic therapy (i.e. ceftriaxone PLUS azithromycin) should be used for all cases of gonorrhea, regardless of chlamydia infection status. If the partner is unable to be seen to receive the recommended treatment, an alternative treatment for uncomplicated genitourinary gonorrhea is with cefixime (Suprax) 400mg PO PLUS Azithromycin 1 gm PO.

Please Note: Quinolone antibiotics (i.e. ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, ofloxacin) are no longer recommended for the treatment of gonorrhea in the United States, as reported in the MMWR, April 13, 2007:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5614a3.htm?s_cid=mm5614a3_e.

High rates of ciprofloxacin resistant gonorrhea have recently been found in New Mexico.

Suspected pharyngeal gonorrhea should not be treated with oral cephalosporin antibiotics. Current recommended treatment is Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM PLUS Azithromycin 1 gm PO.

Trichomoniasis:

The CDC does not recommend routine use of EPT in the management of male partners of women with trichomoniasis because their male partners are at high risk of having other STDs (especially gonorrhea and chlamydia). When possible, it is best for male partners of women with trichomoniasis to undergo a complete STD evaluation. When using EPT for trichomoniasis, use metronidazole (Flagyl) 2-grams orally in a single dose.

Please note: Partners should be informed not to take metronidazole if they have consumed alcohol in the previous 12 hours, and to abstain from all alcohol for 24 hours following treatment.

Other STDs:

These guidelines are only for treatment of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomoniasis. There is limited evidence to support this intervention with any other STDs at this time. For further information on treatment of STDs refer to: STD Treatment Guidelines, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are available online: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/>

Written Information For Partners:

Every patient should be provided with a NMDOH medication sheet (available in English and Spanish) for each partner who will receive EPT. The medication sheet includes information that encourages partners to be clinically evaluated after receiving their EPT, informs them of symptoms that need immediate evaluation, warns not to take the medication if allergic, discusses common side-effects, and provides telephone numbers to call for information. The index patient should be counseled to tell their partner(s) that it is important to read the information contained in the medication sheet before taking the medication.

Re-testing and Tests-of-Cure:

Tests-of-cure are not routinely recommended for the sexual partners who receive EPT. However, because of high rates of re-infection, especially in women, the CDC recommends that all women with gonorrhea or chlamydia be re-tested 3 months after treatment. If the patient is not re-tested in 3 months, providers are encouraged to test whenever the patient next seeks medical care within the following 3-12 months, regardless of whether the patient believes that her sex partners were treated.

Consultations:

For questions about EPT contact:

1. Medical Director for Infectious Diseases, New Mexico Department of Health Office: 505-476-3668 or Cell phone: 505-977-7134.
2. Elaine Thomas, MD, Professor of Infectious Diseases, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center PALS Line: 505-272-2000

Reporting Adverse Events:

Report any adverse events that result from EPT to the NM Department of Health STD Program: 505-476-3611.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A EPT Medication Sheet for Gonorrhea (English)
- Attachment B EPT Medication Sheet for Gonorrhea (Spanish)
- Attachment C EPT Medication Sheet for Chlamydia (English)
- Attachment D EPT Medication Sheet for Chlamydia (Spanish)
- Attachment E EPT Medication Sheet for Trichomoniasis (English)
- Attachment F EPT Medication Sheet for Trichomoniasis (Spanish)



IMPORTANT and PRIVATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HEALTH PLEASE READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING CEFIXIME AND AZITHROMYCIN

Your sex partner has recently been treated for gonorrhea (sometimes called “the clap”). Gonorrhea is a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Some people with gonorrhea do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine.

-Men may notice a yellow or greenish discharge (drip) from their penis, pain or discomfort when urinating (peeing), or pain and swelling in their testicles.

-Women may notice a change in their usual vaginal discharge, pain during sex, bleeding between periods or after sex, lower belly or pelvic cramps or pain, or pain when urinating (peeing). Women can become infertile (unable to have children) if they don’t get treated.

-Men and women can also get infected with gonorrhea in the throat from oral sex or in the rectum from anal sex.

Whether or not you are having any of these symptoms at this time; you could have gonorrhea. It is important that you take this medicine to prevent you from getting sick. Also, you can re-infect your partner if you have unprotected sex before you are cured of the infection.

After you take the medicine it is best for you to see your own doctor or medical care provider for an STD exam, counseling, and, possibly, to get tested for other sexually transmitted diseases. If you do not have a medical provider, or if you are uninsured, you can receive free care at the Department of Health (call the closest office to find out when you can be seen).

Before you take the medicine, please read the following:

Cefixime is very safe cephalosporin antibiotic. However, **DO NOT TAKE** if any of the following are true:

- You are female and having lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting, or fever.
- You are pregnant.
- You are male and having pain or swelling in the testicles (balls) or fever.
- You ever had a bad reaction, hives (a kind of rash), or allergy to penicillin or to a related antibiotic (such as ampicillin, amoxicillin, or another cephalosporin antibiotic).
- You have a serious long-term illness like kidney, heart or liver disease, or a seizure disorder.
- You are currently taking another prescription medication.

If any of these circumstances exist, you should talk to your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Some people may get diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramps, indigestion, rash, headache, vomiting, itching, or a vaginal yeast infection after taking these medications. These won’t last long, if they do, contact your healthcare provider.

If you experience any other side effects or an allergic reaction (rash, itching, swelling, dizziness, or trouble breathing) - you should call your healthcare provider immediately.

Take all medication with a glass of water or with food. It is important that you take this medicine as soon as possible to get cured.

- ***DO NOT share or give this medicine to anyone else.***

Do not have sex for the next 7 days. **It takes 7 days to be sure that the medicine has cured gonorrhea.** If you have unprotected sex during the 7 days after taking the medicine, you could still pass the infection to your sex partners. While condoms are effective, the safest way to make sure you don't pass the infection on to anyone is to not have sex for 7 days.

If you have any questions about cefixime or gonorrhea, please call:

(Contact)

(Phone Number)

All calls are confidential. **No one will ask for your name.**



INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE y PRIVADA SOBRE SU SALUD POR FAVOR LEA ESTA INFORMACIÓN CON MUCHA ATENCIÓN

INDICACIONES PARA TOMAR CEFIXIMA

Su pareja sexual ha recibido recientemente tratamiento para la gonorrea (también se llama purgación o en inglés “the clap”). La gonorrea es una enfermedad de transmisión sexual que se puede curar y se puede contraer al tener relaciones sexuales con una persona infectada. Algunas de las personas que tienen gonorrea no saben que la tienen porque no tienen ningún síntoma y se sienten bien.

-Los hombres pueden notar una secreción del pene de color amarillento o verdoso, dolor o malestar al orinar o dolor e hinchazón de los testículos.

-Las mujeres pueden notar un flujo vaginal anormal, dolor al tener relaciones sexuales, sangrado entre los periodos menstruales o después de tener relaciones sexuales, dolor o retorcion en la parte baja del vientre o pelvis o dolor al orinar. Las mujeres, si no reciben tratamiento, pueden quedar estériles (no podrán tener hijos en el futuro).

-Tanto en los hombres como en las mujeres la gonorrea puede causar una infección en la garganta (por medio del sexo oral) o en el recto (por medio del sexo anal).

No importa si ahora mismo tiene o no cualquiera de estos síntomas, usted puede tener gonorrea. Es importante que tome esta medicina para prevenir que se enferme. También, usted puede volver a infectar a su pareja si tiene relaciones sexuales sin protección (sin usar un condón) antes de haberse curado de esta enfermedad.

Después de haber tomado esta medicina, lo mejor es que vaya a su médico o profesional de la salud para un chequeo de enfermedades de transmisión sexual, terapia y, posiblemente, le hagan una prueba para detectar otras enfermedades de transmisión sexual. Si no tiene médico o no tiene seguro médico, puede recibir atención médica gratuita del Departamento de Salud (llame a su oficina de salud más próxima para saber cuando le pueden atender).

Antes de tomar esta medicina, por favor lea la siguiente información:

La cefixima es un antibiótico de cefalosporina muy seguro. Sin embargo, **NO LO TOME si usted cumple alguna de estas afirmaciones:**

- Usted es una mujer que tiene dolor en la parte baja del vientre o siente dolor al tener relaciones sexuales, tiene vómitos o fiebre.
- Está embarazada.
- Usted es un hombre y siente dolor o tiene hinchazón en los testículos o fiebre.
- Si usted ha tenido alguna vez alguna reacción adversa, como un sarpullido (urticaria o ronchas) o alergia a la penicilina o a un antibiótico relacionado (como la ampicilina, amoxicilina u otro antibiótico de cefalosporina).
- Si usted tiene una enfermedad crónica grave del riñón, corazón o hígado, o un trastorno convulsivo (sufre convulsiones).

- Si ahora mismo está tomando alguna otra medicina con receta médica.

Si usted cumple alguna de estas circunstancias anteriores, debe hablar con su médico lo antes posible.

Algunas personas pueden sufrir diarrea, náusea, retorcijones, indigestión, un sarpullido, dolor de cabeza, vómitos, picazón o una infección vaginal por hongos después de haber tomado cefixima. Estos síntomas no duran mucho tiempo, pero si persisten, póngase en contacto con su médico.

Si nota otros efectos secundarios o una reacción alérgica (como un sarpullido, picazón, hinchazón, mareos o problemas para respirar) debe llamar a su médico inmediatamente.

Tome las dos tabletas de cefixima con un vaso de agua o con comida. Es importante que tome esta medicina lo antes posible para que pueda curarse.

No comparta esta medicina ni tampoco se la dé a nadie.

No tenga relaciones sexuales durante los siete días después de haber tomado la medicina. **Son necesarios siete días para estar seguro de que esta medicina tenga efecto y cure la gonorrea.** Si usted tiene relaciones sexuales sin protección (sin usar un condón) cualquiera de los siete días después de haber tomado la medicina, todavía puede infectar a sus parejas sexuales. Aunque los condones son efectivos, la forma más segura de no pasarle la infección a nadie es no tener relaciones sexuales por siete días después de haber tomado la medicina.

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre la cefixima o la gonorrea, por favor llame:

(nombre)

(numero)

Todas las llamadas son confidenciales. **Nadie le preguntará su nombre.**



IMPORTANT and PRIVATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HEALTH PLEASE READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING AZITHROMYCIN

Your sex partner has recently been treated for *chlamydia*.

Chlamydia is a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Many people with *chlamydia* do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine.

-Men may notice a discharge (drip) from their penis, pain or discomfort when urinating (peeing), or pain and swelling in their testicles.

-Women may notice a change in their usual vaginal discharge, pain during sex, bleeding between periods or after sex, lower belly or pelvic pain or cramps, or pain when urinating (peeing). Women can become infertile (unable to have children) if they don't get treated.

Whether or not you are having any of these symptoms at this time; you could have *chlamydia*. It is important that you take the azithromycin to prevent you from getting sick. Also, you can re-infect your partner if you have unprotected sex before you are cured of the infection.

After you take the medicine it is best for you to see your own doctor or medical care provider for an STD exam, counseling, and, possibly, to get tested for other sexually transmitted diseases. If you do not have a medical provider, or if you are uninsured, you can receive free care at the Department of Health (call the closest office to find out when you can be seen).

Before you take the medicine, please read the following:

Azithromycin is very safe antibiotic. However, **DO NOT TAKE IT if any of the following are true:**

- You are female and having lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting, or fever.
- You are pregnant.
- You are male and having pain or swelling in the testicles (balls) with or without fever.
- You ever had a bad reaction, hives (a kind of rash), or allergy to the following antibiotics: azithromycin ("Zithromax"), erythromycin, or clarithromycin ("Biaxin").
- You have a serious long-term illness like kidney, heart or liver disease.
- You are currently taking another prescription medication.

If any of these circumstances exist, you should talk to your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Some people may get a mild upset stomach or diarrhea after taking azithromycin. These won't last long, if they do, contact your healthcare provider.

If you experience any other side effects or an allergic reaction (rash, itching, swelling, dizziness, or trouble breathing) - you should call your healthcare provider immediately.

Take all tablets of azithromycin with a glass of water or with food. It is important that you take this medicine as soon as possible to get cured.

Don't share or give this medicine to anyone else.

Do not have sex for the next 7 days. **It takes 7 days for the medicine to cure chlamydia.** If you have unprotected sex during the 7 days after taking the medicine, you could still pass the infection to your sex partners. While condoms are effective, the safest way to make sure you don't pass the infection on to anyone is to not have sex for 7 days.

If you have any questions about azithromycin or *chlamydia*, please call:

(Contact)

(Phone Number)

All calls are confidential. **No one will ask for your name.**



INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE y PRIVADA SOBRE SU SALUD POR FAVOR LEA ESTA INFORMACIÓN CON MUCHA ATENCIÓN

INDICACIONES PARA TOMAR AZITROMICINA

Su pareja sexual ha recibido recientemente tratamiento para la *clamidia*. La *clamidia* es una enfermedad de transmisión sexual que se puede curar y se puede contraer al tener relaciones sexuales con una persona infectada. Muchas de las personas que tienen *clamidia* no saben que la tienen porque no tienen ningún síntoma y se sienten bien.

-Los hombres pueden notar secreción del pene, dolor o malestar al orinar o dolor e hinchazón de los testículos.

-Las mujeres pueden notar un flujo vaginal anormal, dolor al tener relaciones sexuales, sangrado entre los periodos menstruales o después de tener relaciones sexuales, dolor o retorcijones en la parte baja del vientre o pelvis o dolor al orinar. Las mujeres, si no reciben tratamiento, pueden quedar estériles (no podrán tener hijos en el futuro).

No importa si ahora mismo tiene o no cualquiera de estos síntomas, usted puede tener *clamidia*. Es importante que tome la medicina azitromicina para prevenir que se enferme. También, usted puede volver a infectar a su pareja si tiene relaciones sexuales sin protección (sin usar un condón) antes de haberse curado de esta enfermedad.

Después de haber tomado esta medicina, lo mejor es que vaya a su médico o profesional de la salud para un chequeo de enfermedades de transmisión sexual, terapia y, posiblemente, le hagan una prueba para detectar otras enfermedades de transmisión sexual. Si no tiene médico o no tiene seguro médico, puede recibir atención médica gratuita del Departamento de Salud (llame a su oficina de salud más próxima para saber cuando le pueden atender).

Antes de tomar esta medicina, por favor lea la siguiente información:

La azitromicina es un antibiótico muy seguro. Sin embargo, **NO LO TOME si usted cumple alguna de estas afirmaciones:**

- Usted es una mujer que tiene dolor en la parte baja del vientre o siente dolor al tener relaciones sexuales, tiene vómitos o fiebre.
- Está embarazada.
- Usted es un hombre y siente dolor o tiene hinchazón en los testículos con o sin fiebre.
- Si usted ha tenido alguna vez alguna reacción adversa, como un sarpullido (urticaria o ronchas) o alergia a uno de los siguientes antibióticos: azitromicina (“Zithromax”), eritromicina o claritromicina (“Biaxin”).
- Si usted tiene una enfermedad crónica grave del riñón, corazón o del hígado.
- Si ahora mismo está tomando alguna otra medicina con receta médica.

Si usted cumple alguna de estas circunstancias anteriores, debe hablar con su médico lo antes posible.

Algunas personas pueden sentir un ligero dolor de estómago o tener diarrea después de haber tomado azitromicina. Estos síntomas no duran mucho tiempo, pero si persisten, póngase en contacto con su médico.

Si nota otros efectos secundarios o una reacción alérgica (como un sarpullido, picazón, hinchazón, mareos o problemas para respirar) debe llamar a su médico inmediatamente.

Tome todas las tabletas de azitromicina con un vaso de agua o con comida. Es importante que tome esta medicina lo antes posible para que pueda curarse.

No comparta esta medicina ni tampoco se la dé a nadie.

No tenga relaciones sexuales durante los siete días después de haber tomado la medicina. **La medicina tarda siete días en curar la clamidia.** Si usted tiene relaciones sexuales sin protección (sin usar un condón) cualquiera de los siete días después de haber tomado la medicina, todavía puede infectar a sus parejas sexuales. Aunque los condones son efectivos, la forma más segura de no pasarle la infección a nadie es no tener relaciones sexuales por siete días después de haber tomado la medicina.

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre la azitromicina o la *clamidia*, por favor llame:

(nombre)

(numero)

Todas las llamadas son confidenciales. **Nadie le preguntará su nombre.**



IMPORTANT and PRIVATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HEALTH PLEASE READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING METRONIDAZOLE

Your sex partner has recently been treated for trichomoniasis (also called trichomonas or “trick”). Trichomoniasis is a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Some people with trichomoniasis do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine.

-Women often notice a frothy, smelly, yellow or green vaginal discharge. They may also have some itching or burning in their genital area.

-Most men have no symptoms. Some may notice a discharge (drip) from their penis or have discomfort when they urinate (pee).

Whether or not you are having any of these symptoms at this time; you could have trichomoniasis. It is important that you take this medicine to get rid of trichomoniasis. Also, you can re-infect your partner if you have unprotected sex before you are cured of the infection.

After you take the medicine it is best for you to see your own doctor or medical care provider for an STD exam, counseling, and, possibly, to get tested for other sexually transmitted diseases. If you do not have a medical provider, or if you are uninsured, you can receive free care at the Department of Health (call the closest office to find out when you can be seen).

Before you take the medicine, please read the following:

Metronidazole is a safe antibiotic. However, **IF YOU DRINK ANY ALCOHOL WHILE YOU ARE TAKING THIS MEDICINE YOU CAN HAVE A SEVERE REACTION THAT MAY INCLUDE STOMACH UPSET, NAUSEA, VOMITING, HEADACHE, AND FLUSHING.** Do not take the pills if you have had any alcoholic beverage in the previous 12 hours and do not drink alcohol until 24 hours after you take this medication.

DO NOT TAKE if any of the following are true:

- You ever had an allergic reaction (**rash, itching, swelling, dizziness, or trouble breathing**) to metronidazole or “Flagyl.”
- You are female and having lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting, or fever.
- You are pregnant or breast feeding.
- You are male and having pain or swelling in the testicles (balls) or fever.
- You are currently taking another prescription medication.

- You have liver disease or a neurological disorder.

If any of these circumstances exist, you should talk to your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Side effects: Dizziness, headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, rash, a change in taste sensation, or a dry mouth. **If these effects persist or worsen, contact your medical provider.**

Less common side effects include: seizures, loss of consciousness, or tingling of the hands or feet, unsteadiness, mood or mental changes, itching, fever, or severe belly pain. **Contact your medical provider immediately if you experience any of these.** This medicine may also cause urine to be darker in color; this is not harmful.

Take all of the tablets of metronidazole that you are given (depending on the pill strength, you may be given four or eight pills) with a glass of water or with food. It is important that you take this medicine as soon as possible to get cured.

Do not share or give this medicine to anyone else.

Avoid sex until you and your partner have taken your medication and neither of you has any more symptoms.

If you have any questions about metronidazole or trichomoniasis, please call:

(Contact)

(Phone Number)

All calls are confidential. **No one will ask for your name.**



INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE y PRIVADA SOBRE SU SALUD POR FAVOR LEA ESTA INFORMACIÓN CON MUCHA ATENCIÓN

INDICACIONES PARA TOMAR METRONIDAZOL

Su pareja sexual ha recibido recientemente tratamiento para la tricomoniasis (también se llama tricomonas o en inglés “trick”). La tricomoniasis es una enfermedad de transmisión sexual que se puede curar y se puede contraer al tener relaciones sexuales con una persona infectada. Algunas de las personas que tienen tricomoniasis no saben que la tienen porque no tienen ningún síntoma y se sienten bien.

-Las mujeres a menudo notan un flujo vaginal espumoso de color amarillento o verdoso y con un fuerte olor. También es posible que sientan ardor o irritación en el área genital.

-La mayoría de los hombres no tienen síntomas. -Los hombres pueden notar secreción del pene o malestar al orinar.

No importa si ahora mismo tiene o no cualquiera de estos síntomas, usted puede tener tricomoniasis. Es importante que tome esta medicina para eliminar la tricomoniasis. También, usted puede volver a infectar a su pareja si tiene relaciones sexuales sin protección (sin usar un condón) antes de haberse curado de esta enfermedad.

Después de haber tomado esta medicina, lo mejor es que vaya a su médico o profesional de la salud para un chequeo de enfermedades de transmisión sexual, terapia y, posiblemente, le hagan una prueba para detectar otras enfermedades de transmisión sexual. Si no tiene médico o no tiene seguro médico, puede recibir atención médica gratuita del Departamento de Salud (llame a su oficina de salud más próxima para saber cuando le pueden atender).

Antes de tomar esta medicina, por favor lea la siguiente información:

El metronidazol es un antibiótico seguro. Sin embargo, SI USTED BEBE ALGO DE ALCOHOL MIENTRAS ESTÁ TOMANDO ESTA MEDICINA, PUEDE SUFRIR UNA REACCIÓN GRAVE QUE PUEDE INCLUIR MALESTAR ESTOMACAL, NÁUSEAS, VOMITOS, DOLOR DE CABEZA Y SOFOCOS (ENROJECIMIENTO EN LA CARA). No se tome las pastillas si ha tomado alguna bebida alcohólica en las 12 horas anteriores Y no tome nada de alcohol hasta que hayan pasado 24 horas desde que tomó esta medicina.

NO LO TOME si usted cumple alguna de estas afirmaciones:

- Si alguna vez ha tenido una reacción alérgica (**sarpullido, picazón, hinchazón, mareos o problemas para respirar**) a la medicina metronidazol o “Flagyl.”
- Usted es una mujer que tiene dolor en la parte baja del vientre o siente dolor al tener relaciones sexuales, tiene vómitos o fiebre.

- Está embarazada o está amamantando.
- Usted es un hombre y siente dolor o tiene hinchazón en los testículos o fiebre.
- Si ahora mismo está tomando alguna otra medicina con receta médica.
- Si tiene alguna enfermedad del hígado o un trastorno neurológico.

Si usted cumple alguna de estas circunstancias anteriores, debe hablar con su médico lo antes posible.

Efectos secundarios: Mareos, dolor de cabeza, diarrea, náusea, vómitos, dolor de estómago, sarpullido, cambio en la sensación del gusto o sequedad en la boca. **Si estos efectos persisten o empeoran, póngase en contacto con su médico.**

Algunos efectos secundarios menos comunes incluyen: convulsiones, pérdida del conocimiento, hormigueo en las manos o pies, temblores, cambios en el estado de ánimo u otros cambios mentales, picazón, fiebre o dolor de vientre grave. **Comuníquese con su médico si nota cualquiera de estos efectos secundarios.**

Este medicamento también puede ocasionar que la orina sea más oscura de lo normal, no se preocupe, es un efecto secundario sin importancia.

Tome todas las tabletas de metronidazol que le den (dependiendo de la concentración de la pastilla, puede que le den cuatro u ocho pastillas) con un vaso de agua o con comida. Es importante que tome esta medicina lo antes posible para que pueda curarse.

No comparta esta medicina ni tampoco se la dé a nadie.

Evite tener relaciones sexuales hasta que usted y su pareja hayan tomado toda la medicina y ya ninguno de ustedes tenga ningún síntoma.

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre el metronidazol o la tricomoniasis, o para obtener el número de teléfono de su oficina de salud más próxima, por favor llame:

(nombre)

(numero)

Todas las llamadas son confidenciales. **Nadie le preguntará su nombre.**