



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Clinical Prevention Services  
Provincial STI/HIV Clinic

655 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

Tel 604.707.5600  
Fax 604.707.5604

www.bccdc.ca  
www.SmartSexResource.com

## Metronidazole

Metronidazole is an antibiotic taken by mouth for the treatment of **bacterial vaginosis (BV)** or certain sexually transmitted infections (STI) e.g. trichomoniasis.

### Allergies

- Tell your healthcare provider if you have an allergy to **metronidazole** (Flagyl®).

### Pregnancy and Chest/Breastfeeding

- Metronidazole may be used during the first trimester (first three months) of pregnancy after discussing this with your healthcare provider, and during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.
- Metronidazole may be used during chest/breastfeeding, depending on the dose prescribed. If you are prescribed a single 2 gram dose of metronidazole, pump and discard breastmilk for 12-24 hours after your dose to allow the medication to leave your body.
- For premature babies, or individuals with liver or kidney conditions, please consult your healthcare provider.

### CAUTION

- **Drug Interactions:** Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any prescription, non-prescription, herbal, or recreational products. Not all individual drug interactions are listed in this document.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have any **pre-existing heart conditions or arrhythmia, and/or any liver, blood, or neurological disorders.**
- **Do not take alcohol or alcohol-containing medications** (e.g., Nyquil®) 12 hours before a dose, during treatment, and 24-48 hours after a dose
- **Do not take the following medication while taking metronidazole:**
  - **Antiarrhythmic:** dronedarone (Multaq®)
  - **Antipsychotic:** pimozide (Orap®), ziprasidone (Zeldox®)
  - **Alcoholism treatment:** disulfiram (Antabuse®)
  - **HIV medication:** amprenavir (Agenerase®) oral solution, lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®) oral solution; ritonavir (Norvir®) oral solution; saquinavir (Invirase®); tipranavir (Aptivus®)
  - **Parasitic worm treatment:** mebendazole (Vermox®)
  - **Oral Typhoid vaccine** (Vivotif®)

## Metronidazole (cont'd)

### Side Effects

- You may experience diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, indigestion, unpleasant metallic taste in the mouth, darkened urine, rash, itching, headache, dizziness, or weakness, numbness or pain in your extremities.
- If you experience any neurological disorders such as seizures, confusion, dizziness, or transient visual problems, contact your healthcare provider immediately and do not drive or operate machinery.
- If you experience any allergic or skin reactions, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

### Instructions for Taking

- Metronidazole may be taken with food to reduce stomach upset
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is close to your next dose, skip the dose and resume your usual dosing time. Do not take a double dose.
- Individuals taking metronidazole should not drink alcohol or take alcohol-based medications for 12 hours before and 24 – 48 hours after treatment because of possible adverse reaction (flushing, headache, vomiting, cramps, very fast or uneven heartbeat).

### Storage Instructions

- Store at room temperature between 15°C and 30°C.
- Protect from light, heat, and moisture.
- Do not use medications beyond the printed expiry date.
- Keep away from the reach of children.

### Special Instructions

#### **If taking metronidazole for treatment of bacterial vaginosis:**

- If you are a female with female partners, it is recommended that your partner(s) be tested for bacterial vaginosis and treated if positive.

#### **If taking metronidazole for treatment of trichomoniasis:**

- Do not have sex until:
  - One week after your one-dose treatment, or until you have completed your 7 day treatment, and
  - Your sex partner(s) have also been treated, and one week has passed since the start of their treatment, even if their test results are negative.
- You will need retreatment if you have sex with an untreated partner, or you have sex before either you or your partner(s) treatment is complete. Please discuss with your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions or need more information, please visit [www.smartsexresource.com](http://www.smartsexresource.com) or contact your healthcare provider.