



## WHAT IS DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP?

Doxycycline as STI PEP is a new and effective way to prevent bacterial STIs. By taking the well-known antibiotic doxycycline ideally within 24 hours but no later than 72 hours after condomless oral, anal, or vaginal sex, patients can potentially reduce STI acquisition and transmission.



## HOW EFFECTIVE IS DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP?

An NIH-funded study published by the New England Journal of Medicine in April 2023 found that doxycycline as STI PEP reduced syphilis by 87%, chlamydia by 88%, and gonorrhea by 55% in individuals taking HIV PrEP. Moreover, doxycycline as STI PEP reduced syphilis by 77%, chlamydia by 74%, and gonorrhea by 57% in people living with HIV (PLWH). (Source: N Engl J Med 2023; 388:1296-1306)



## CAN ANYONE USE DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP?

Current efficacy data only applies to adult gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), as well as transgender women. Studies among cisgender women and adolescents are ongoing.



For more information visit:  
[chi.gov/DoxyPep](https://chi.gov/DoxyPep)



# DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP 101



## HOW DO PATIENTS USE DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP?

- Doxycycline is a pill that is generally available only by prescription.
- 200 mg of doxycycline should be taken ideally within 24 hours but no later than 72 hours after condomless oral, anal or vaginal sex
- Doxycycline can be taken as often as every day, depending on frequency of sexual activity, but individuals should not take more than 200 mg within a 24-hour period.
- Either doxycycline hyclate delayed release 200 mg (1 tab) OR doxycycline hyclate or monohydrate immediate release 100 mg (2 tabs taken simultaneously) are acceptable.



## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP AND STI TESTING?

Patients using doxycycline as STI PEP should still engage in regular sexual health testing, including being screened for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV (if not known to be living with HIV) every three months. If a person utilizing doxycycline as STI PEP is diagnosed with an STI, they should be treated according to the 2021 CDC STI treatment guidelines.



## WHAT ARE DOXYCYCLINE'S POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS?

Potential adverse side effects of doxycycline includes:

- Phototoxicity
- Gastrointestinal symptoms
- More rarely esophageal ulceration.



## HOW CAN I HELP BUILD AWARENESS OF DOXYCYCLINE AS STI PEP?

Although doxycycline is an older drug, Doxycycline as STI PEP is a new intervention. Community organizations, providers, and DIS will need to take a proactive approach to informing potential patients about doxycycline as STI PEP. Consider planning outreach to community members and partner organizations to build population awareness, and consider working with local healthcare providers and pharmacies to inform them of doxycycline as STI PEP and to reduce access barriers.