

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Doxylag 100mg Capsules

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

One capsule contains 100 mg doxycycline base (as doxycycline hyclate).

Excipient(s) with known effect

Lactose 65 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Hard gelatin capsules

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Doxylag 100 mg has been found clinically effective in the treatment of a variety of infections caused by susceptible strains of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and certain other micro-organisms.

Respiratory tract infections: Pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections due to susceptible strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and other organisms. *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* pneumonia. Treatment of chronic bronchitis, sinusitis.

Urinary tract infections caused by susceptible strains of *Klebsiella* species, *Enterobacter* species, *Escherichia coli*, *Streptococcus faecalis* and other organisms.

Sexually transmitted diseases: Infections due to *Chlamydia trachomatis* including uncomplicated urethral, endocervical or rectal infections. Nongonococcal urethritis caused by *Ureaplasma urealyticum* (T-mycoplasma). Doxylag 100 mg is also indicated in chancroid, granuloma inguinale and lymphogranuloma venereum. Doxylag 100 mg is an alternative drug in the treatment of gonorrhoea and syphilis.

Dermatological infections: Acne vulgaris, when antibiotic therapy is considered necessary.

Since Doxylag 100 mg is a member of the tetracycline series of antibiotics, it may be expected to be useful in the treatment of infections which respond to other tetracyclines, such as:

Ophthalmic infections: Due to susceptible strains of gonococci, staphylococci and *Haemophilus influenzae*. Doxylag Capsules are indicated in the treatment of trachoma, although the infectious agent, as judged by immunofluorescence, is not always eliminated. Inclusion conjunctivitis may be treated with oral Doxylag 100 mg alone or in combination with topical agents.

Rickettsial infections: Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus group, Q fever, *Coxiella endocarditis* and tick fevers.

Other infections: Psittacosis, brucellosis (in combination with streptomycin), cholera, bubonic plague, louse and tick-borne relapsing fever, tularaemia glanders, melioidosis, chloroquine-resistant falciparum malaria and acute intestinal amoebiasis (as an adjunct to amoebicides).

Doxylag 100 mg is an alternative drug in the treatment of leptospirosis, gas gangrene and tetanus.

Doxylag 100 mg is indicated for prophylaxis in the following conditions: Scrub typhus, travellers' diarrhoea (enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*), leptospirosis and malaria. Prophylaxis of malaria should be used in accordance to current guidelines, as resistance is an ever changing problem.

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults and children aged 12 years to less than 18 years

The usual dosage of doxycycline for the treatment of acute infections in adults and children aged 12 years to less than 18 years is 200 mg on the first day (administered as a single dose or divided into two equal doses) followed by a maintenance dose of 100 mg/day. In the management of more severe, 200 mg daily should be given throughout the treatment period.

Children aged 8 years to less than 12 years. (Section 4.4)

The use of doxycycline for the treatment of acute infections in children aged 8 years to less than 12 years should be carefully justified in situations where other drugs are not available, are not likely to be effective or are contraindicated.

In such circumstance, the doses for the treatment of acute infections are:

- *For children 45 kg or less* - Initial dose: 4.4 mg/kg (in single or 2 divided doses) with maintenance dose: 2.2 mg/kg (in single or 2 divided doses). In the management of more severe infections, up to 4.4 mg/kg should be given throughout treatment.
- *For children, over 45 kg* - Dose administered for adults should be used.

Children aged from birth to less than 8 years

Doxycycline should not be used in children aged younger than 8 years due to the risk of teeth discolouration. (Section 4.4 and 4.8)

Dosage recommendations in specific infections:

Acne vulgaris: 50 mg daily with food or fluid for 6 to 12 weeks.

Sexually transmitted diseases: 100 mg twice daily for 7 days is recommended in the following infections: uncomplicated gonococcal infections (except anorectal infections in men); uncomplicated urethral, endocervical or rectal infection caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*; nongonococcal urethritis caused by *Ureaplasma urealyticum*.

Acute epididymo-orchitis caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* or *Neisseria gonorrhoea* 100 mg twice daily for 10 days.

Primary and secondary syphilis: Non-pregnant penicillin-allergic patients who have primary or secondary syphilis can be treated with the following regimen: doxycycline 200 mg orally twice daily for two weeks, as an alternative to penicillin therapy.

Louse and tick-borne relapsing fevers: A single dose of 100 or 200 mg according to severity.

Treatment of chloroquine-resistant falciparum malaria: 200 mg daily for at least 7 days. Due to the potential severity of the infection, a rapid-acting schizonticide such as quinine should always be given in conjunction with Doxylag 100 mg; quinine dosage recommendations vary in different areas.

Prophylaxis of malaria: 100 mg daily in adults and children over the age of 12 years. Prophylaxis can begin 1-2 days before travel to malarial areas. It should be continued daily during travel in the malarial areas and for 4 weeks after the traveller leaves the malarial area. For current advice on geographical resistance patterns and appropriate chemoprophylaxis, current guidelines or the Malaria Reference Laboratory should be consulted, details of which can be found in the British National Formulary (BNF).

For the prevention of scrub typhus: 200 mg as a single dose.

For the prevention of travellers' diarrhoea in adults: 200 mg on the first day of travel (administered as a single dose or as 100 mg every 12 hours) followed by 100 mg daily throughout the stay in the area. Data on the use of the drug prophylactically are not available beyond 21 days.

For the prevention of leptospirosis: 200 mg once each week throughout the stay in the area and 200 mg at the completion of the trip. Data on the use of the drug prophylactically are not available beyond 21 days.

Use in the elderly: Doxylag 100 mg may be prescribed in the elderly in the usual dosages with no special precautions. No dosage adjustment is necessary in the presence of renal impairment. The Doxylag 100 mg may be preferred for the elderly since it is less likely to be associated with oesophageal irritation and ulceration.

Use in patients with impaired hepatic function See section 4.4.

Renal impairment: Studies to date have indicated that administration of Doxylag 100 mg at the usual recommended doses does not lead to

accumulation of the antibiotic in patients with renal impairment. See section 4.4.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Adults: 100 mg every 12 hours.

Children: weighing less than 45 kg: 2.2 mg/kg body weight given twice a day. Children weighing 45 kg or more should receive the adult dose (see section 4.4 paediatric population).

Patients should be treated for at least 3 days after the fever subsides and until there is evidence of clinical improvement. Minimum course of treatment is 57 days.

Method of administration

Capsules are for oral administration only.

Doxylag 100 mg capsules should be administered with adequate amounts of fluid. This should be done in the sitting or standing position and well before retiring at night to reduce the risk of oesophageal irritation and ulceration. If gastric irritation occurs, it is recommended that Doxylag 100 mg be given with food or milk. Studies indicate that the absorption of Doxylag 100 mg is not notably influenced by simultaneous ingestion of food or milk.

Exceeding the recommended dosage may result in an increased incidence of side effects. Therapy should be continued for at least 24 to 48 hours after symptoms and fever have subsided.

When used in streptococcal infections, therapy should be continued for 10 days to prevent the development of rheumatic fever or glomerulonephritis.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, any of the tetracyclines or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Pregnancy: Doxylag 100 mg is contra-indicated in pregnancy. It appears that the risks associated with the use of tetracyclines during pregnancy are predominantly due to effects on teeth and skeletal development. (See Section 4 regarding use during tooth development).

Breast-feeding mothers: Tetracyclines are excreted into milk and are therefore contra-indicated in nursing mothers. (See Section 4 regarding use during tooth development).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Paediatric population

The use of drugs of the tetracycline class during tooth development (last half of pregnancy, infancy and childhood to the age of 8 years) may cause permanent discolouration of the teeth (yellow-grey-brown). This adverse reaction is more common during long-term use of the drugs but has been observed following repeated short-term courses.

Enamel hypoplasia has also been reported. Use doxycycline in paediatric patients aged younger than 8 years only when the potential benefits are expected to outweigh the risks in severe or life-threatening conditions (e.g. Rocky Mountain spotted fever), only when there are no adequate alternative therapies.

Although the risk of permanent teeth staining is rare in children aged 8 years to less than 12 years, the use of doxycycline should be carefully justified in situations where other drugs are not available, are not likely to be effective or are contraindicated.

Use in patients with impaired hepatic function:

Doxycycline should be administered with caution to patients with hepatic impairment or those receiving potentially hepatotoxic drugs. Abnormal hepatic function has been reported rarely and has been caused by both the oral and parenteral administration of tetracyclines, including doxycycline.

Use in patients with renal impairment:

Excretion of doxycycline by the kidney is about 40%/72 hours in individuals with normal renal function. This percentage excretion may fall to a range as low as 1-5%/72 hours in individuals with severe renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance below 10 ml/min). Studies have shown no significant difference in the serum half-life of doxycycline in individuals with normal and severely impaired renal function.

Haemodialysis does not alter the serum half-life of doxycycline. The anti-anabolic action of the tetracyclines may cause an increase in blood urea. Studies to date indicate that this anti-anabolic effect does not occur with the use of Doxylag 100 mg in patients with impaired renal function.

Serious skin reactions

Serious skin reactions, such as exfoliative dermatitis, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) have been reported in patients receiving doxycycline (see section 4.8). If serious skin reactions

occur, doxycycline should be discontinued immediately and appropriate therapy should be instituted.

Photosensitivity:

Photosensitivity manifested by an exaggerated sunburn reaction has been observed in some individuals taking tetracyclines, including doxycycline (see section 4.8). Patients likely to be exposed to direct sunlight or ultraviolet light should be advised that this reaction can occur with tetracycline drugs and treatment should be discontinued at the first evidence of skin erythema. Photoonycholysis has also been reported in patients receiving doxycycline (see section 4.8).

Benign intracranial hypertension

Bulging fontanelles in infants have been reported in individuals receiving tetracyclines. Benign intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri) has been associated with the use of tetracyclines including doxycycline. Benign intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri) is usually transient, however cases of permanent visual loss secondary to benign intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri) have been reported with tetracyclines including doxycycline. If visual disturbance occurs during treatment, prompt ophthalmologic evaluation is warranted. Since intracranial pressure can remain elevated for weeks after drug cessation patients should be monitored until they stabilize.

Concomitant use of isotretinoin or other systemic retinoids and doxycycline should be avoided because isotretinoin is also known to cause benign intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri). (See section 4.5).

Microbiological overgrowth:

The use of antibiotics may occasionally result in the overgrowth of nonsusceptible organisms including *Candida*. If a resistant organism appears, the antibiotic should be discontinued and appropriate therapy instituted.

Pseudomembranous colitis

Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with nearly all antibacterial agents, including doxycycline, and has ranged in severity from mild to life threatening. It is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhoea subsequent to the administration of antibacterial agents

Clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea (CDAD) has been reported with use of nearly all antibacterial agents, including doxycycline, and may range in severity from mild diarrhoea to fatal colitis. Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon leading to overgrowth of *C. difficile*.

C. difficile produces toxins A and B which contribute to the development of CDAD. Hypertoxin producing strains of *C. difficile* cause increased morbidity and mortality, as these infections can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy and may require colectomy. CDAD must be considered in all patients who present with diarrhoea following antibiotic use. Careful medical history is necessary since CDAD has been reported to occur over two months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

Oesophagitis: Instances of oesophagitis and oesophageal ulcerations have been reported in patients receiving capsule and tablet forms of drugs in the tetracycline class, including doxycycline. Most of these patients took medications immediately before going to bed or with inadequate amounts of fluid.

Porphyria: There have been rare reports of porphyria in patients receiving tetracyclines.

Venereal disease: When treating venereal disease, where co-existent syphilis is suspected, proper diagnostic procedures including dark-field examinations should be utilised. In all such cases monthly serological tests should be made for at least four months.

Beta-haemolytic streptococci infections: Infections due to group A beta-haemolytic streptococci should be treated for at least 10 days.

Myasthenia gravis: Due to a potential for weak neuromuscular blockade, care should be taken in administering tetracyclines to patients with myasthenia gravis.

Systemic lupus erythematosus: Tetracyclines can cause exacerbation of SLE (see section 4.8).

Methoxyflurane: caution is advised in administering tetracyclines with methoxyflurane. See section 4.5.

Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction

Some patients with spirochete infections may experience a Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction shortly after doxycycline treatment is started. Patients should be reassured that this is a usually self-limiting consequence of antibiotic treatment of spirochete infections.

Doxlag 100 contains Lactose. Patients with galactose intolerance, lack of lactase or glucose-galactose malabsorption (rare hereditary diseases) should not take this medicine.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

The absorption of doxycycline may be impaired by concurrently administered antacids containing aluminium, calcium, magnesium or other drugs containing these cations; oral zinc, iron salts or bismuth preparations. Dosages should be maximally separated.

Since bacteriostatic drugs may interfere with the bactericidal action of penicillin, it is advisable to avoid giving doxycycline in conjunction with penicillin.

There have been reports of prolonged prothrombin time in patients taking warfarin and doxycycline. Tetracyclines depress plasma prothrombin activity and reduced doses of concomitant anticoagulants may be necessary.

The serum half-life of doxycycline may be shortened when patients are concurrently receiving barbiturates, carbamazepine or phenytoin. An increase in the daily dosage of doxycycline should be considered.

Alcohol may decrease the half-life of doxycycline.

A few cases of pregnancy or breakthrough bleeding have been attributed to the concurrent use of tetracycline antibiotics with oral contraceptives.

Doxycycline may increase the plasma concentration of ciclosporin. Co-administration should only be undertaken with appropriate monitoring.

The concurrent use of tetracyclines and methoxyflurane has been reported to result in fatal renal toxicity. See section 4.4.

Concomitant use of isotretinoin or other systemic retinoids and doxycycline should be avoided. Each of these agents used alone has been associated with benign intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri). (See section 4.4).

Laboratory test interactions

False elevations of urinary catecholamine levels may occur due to interference with the fluorescence test.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

See section 4.3.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

The effect of doxycycline on the ability to drive or operate heavy machinery has not been studied. There is no evidence to suggest that doxycycline may affect these abilities.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The following adverse reactions have been observed in patients receiving tetracyclines, including doxycycline.

Common: $\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$, Uncommon: $\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$, Rare: $\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$, Very rare: $< 1/10,000$, Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data).

MEDRA System organ class	Reaction
Infections and infestations:	Uncommon: Vaginal infection Rare: Candida infection
Blood and lymphatic system disorders:	Rare: Haemolytic anaemia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, eosinophilia
Immune system disorders:	Common: Hypersensitivity (including anaphylactic shock, anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactoid reaction, angioedema, exacerbation of systemic lupus erythematosus (see section 4.4), pericarditis, serum sickness, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, hypotension, dyspnoea, tachycardia, peripheral oedema and urticaria) Rare: Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), Jarisch- Herxheimer reaction ^b (see section 4.4)

Endocrine disorders:	Rare: Brown-black microscopic discolouration of thyroid glands
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Rare: Porphyria, decreased appetite
Nervous system disorders:	Common: Headache Rare: Anxiety, benign intracranial Hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri) ^a , fontanelle bulging
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Rare: Tinnitus
Eye disorders	Rare: Visual disturbance ^d
Vascular disorders	Rare: Flushing
Gastrointestinal disorders:	Common: Nausea/vomiting Uncommon: Dyspepsia (Heartburn/gastritis) Rare: Pancreatitis, pseudomembranous colitis, Clostridium difficile colitis, oesophageal ulcer, oesophagitis, enterocolitis, inflammatory lesions (with monilial overgrowth) in the anogenital region, dysphagia, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, glossitis, stomatitis Not Known: tooth discolouration ^e
Hepatobiliary disorders:	Rare: Hepatic failure, hepatitis, hepatotoxicity, jaundice, hepatic function abnormal

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:	<p>Common: Photosensitivity reaction, rash including maculopapular erythematous rashes</p> <p>Rare: Toxic epidermal necrolysis, Stevens- Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme, dermatitis exfoliative, photoonycholysis, skin hyperpigmentation^c</p>
Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders:	Not known: Arthralgia, Myalgia.
Renal and urinary disorders:	Not known: Increased blood urea.

^a

In association with tetracyclines, including doxycycline, benign intracranial hypertension has been reported with possible symptoms of headache, vomiting, visual disturbances including blurred vision, scotoma, diplopia or permanent loss of vision. The manifestation of clinical symptoms, including headache or visual disturbances, should suggest a possible diagnosis of intracranial hypertension. If an increase in intracranial pressure is suspected during treatment with tetracyclines, administration should be discontinued.

^b in the setting of spirochete infections treated with doxycycline.

^c with chronic use of doxycycline.

^d Associated with Benign intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri).

^e

Reversible and superficial discolouration of permanent teeth has been reported with the use of doxycycline but frequency cannot be estimated from available data.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product.

4.9 Overdose

Acute over dosage with antibiotics is rare. In the event of over dosage discontinue medication. Gastric lavage plus appropriate supportive treatment is indicated.

Dialysis does not alter serum doxycycline half-life and thus would not be of benefit in treating cases of overdose.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antibacterials for systemic use, tetracyclines, ATC code: J01AA02

Doxylag 100 mg is primarily bacteriostatic and is believed to exert its antimicrobial effect by the inhibition of protein synthesis. Doxylag 100 mg is active against a wide range of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and certain other micro-organisms.

Mechanism of action

The main mechanism of action of doxycycline is on protein synthesis. Doxycycline passes directly through the lipid bilayer of the bacterial cell wall and an energy dependent active transport system pumps the drug through the inner cytoplasmic membrane. Once inside the cell doxycycline inhibits protein synthesis by binding to 30S ribosomes and prevents the addition of amino acids to the growing peptide chain. Doxycycline will impair protein synthesis in mammalian cells at very high concentrations but these cells lack the active transport system found in bacteria.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Tetracyclines are readily absorbed and are bound to plasma proteins in varying degrees. They are concentrated by the liver in the bile and excreted in the urine and faeces at high concentrations and in a biologically active form. Doxycycline is virtually completely absorbed after oral administration. Studies reported to date indicate that the absorption of doxycycline, unlike certain other tetracyclines, is not notably influenced by the ingestion of food or milk.

Distribution

Following a 200mg dose, normal adult volunteers averaged peak serum levels of 2.6 micrograms/ml of doxycycline at 2 hours decreasing to 1.45 micrograms/ml at 24 hours. Doxycycline has a high degree of lipid solubility and a low affinity for calcium.

Biotransformation

It is highly stable in normal human serum. Doxycycline will not degrade into an epianhydro form.

Elimination

Doxycycline is cleared intact by renal and biliary mechanisms.

Children and Adolescents (2 to 18 years of age)

Population pharmacokinetic analysis of sparse concentration-time data of doxycycline following standard of care intravenous (IV) and oral dosing in 44 paediatric patients (2-18 years of age) showed that allometrically-scaled clearance (CL) of doxycycline in paediatric patients ≥ 2 to ≤ 8 years of age (median [range] 3.58 [2.27-10.82] L/h/70 kg, N=11) did not differ significantly from paediatric patients >8 to 18 years of age (3.27 [1.11-8.12] L/h/70 kg, N=33). For paediatric patients weighing ≤ 45 kg, body weight normalized doxycycline CL in those ≥ 2 to ≤ 8 years of age (median [range] 0.071 [0.041-0.202] L/kg/h, N=10) did not differ significantly from those >8 to 18 years of age (0.081 [0.035-0.126] L/kg/h, N=8). In paediatric patients weighing >45 kg, no clinically significant differences in body weight normalized doxycycline CL were observed between those ≥ 2 to ≤ 8 years (0.050 L/kg/h, N=1) and those >8 to 18 years of age (0.044 [0.014-0.121] L/kg/h, N=25). No clinically significant difference in CL between oral and IV dosing was observed in the small cohort of paediatric patients who received the oral (N=19) or IV (N=21) formulation alone.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Not applicable

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Maize starch

Lactose (*quantity varies acc. to grade of Hyclat)

Talc

Magnesium stearate

Capsule shell:

Iron oxide (E172)
Indigotine (E132)
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Gelatine
Ink: Shellac glaze~45% (20% Esterified) In Ethanol
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Isopropyl alcohol
N-Butyl alcohol
Propylene glycol

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

None stated

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Doxycycline capsules are packed in PVC/PVDC/Alu blister packs in carton box.

Pack sizes are: 8, 10, 100, 500 and 1000 capsules.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

Doxylag 100 should be stored at room temperature (15-25°C), protected from light and humidity, out of reach of children.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Lagap SA
Via Morosini 3
6943 Vezia

Switzerland

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

LAG/SWZ/025

05352/07501/REN/2020

08584/08266/VAR/2023

**9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE
AUTHORISATION**

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10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

08/06/2023