SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DoxyPEP: What You Need to Know

An option to help prevent some STIs after sex.

What is DoxyPEP?

DoxyPEP (doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis) is an antibiotic taken after sex to lower the chance of getting certain sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



When to take it: Take it as soon as possible after oral, anal, or vaginal sex. Take only as prescribed to you.

What it Can Prevent	What it Does NOT Prevent
Research shows DoxyPEP can substantially reduce **syphilis** and **chlamydia** and may also reduce gonorrhea.	It does not prevent HIV, pregnancy, or other STIs such as herpes.

Who Should Consider DoxyPep?

CDC recommends DoxyPEP for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men and transgender women who have had syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea in the past year. You healthcare provider can discuss whether it is appropriate for you.

Tips for Taking DoxyPep



Take it safely: Take it with food or a full glass of water. Stay upright for one hour. Separate from dairy, antacids, and iron, calcium, or magnesium supplements by at least two hours. Protect your skin from the sun.

Keep Up with Sexual Health Care

Get routine STI and HIV testing, generally every 3-6 months, as recommended. DoxyPEP does not treat an existing STI. Ask about condoms, vaccines, and HIV PrEP/PEP when appropriate.

Ask your healthcare provider: “Could DoxyPEP be right for me?”

Sources: CDC Clinical Guidelines on Doxycycline Postexposure Prophylaxis (2024)

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