

# [1] Clarithromycin

Cladek®

## About clarithromycin

Clarithromycin is used to treat a variety of bacterial infections; it works by killing bacteria that cause the infection.

Type of medicine	Antibiotic
Used for	Treatment of infections including chest, skin, ear and some types of stomach ulcers.
Also called	Cladek
Available as	Tablet; liquid; granule; modified release tablet; straws (containing granules)

## Before taking clarithromycin

Before taking clarithromycin make sure your doctor or pharmacist knows:

- ! If you are pregnant, trying for a baby or breast-feeding.
- ! If you suffer from diabetes
- ! If you suffer from liver problems
- ! If you suffer from kidney problems
- ! If you suffer from heart problems
- ! If you suffer from porphyria (a blood disorder)

## How to take clarithromycin

- ! Take this medicine exactly as directed by your doctor.
- ! Swallow clarithromycin tablets whole (not crushed or chewed), with plenty of water.
- ! Dissolve or mix clarithromycin granules in water before taking.
- ! Try to take this medicine at regular intervals, as directed by your doctor, to keep a steady level of clarithromycin in your body.
- ! Try not to miss any doses. If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember unless it is nearly time for your next dose, in which case leave out the missed dose. Never take two doses at the same time to compensate.

## Getting the most from your treatment

- ! Even if your condition has improved it is important to complete the prescribed course of clarithromycin. If you stop taking this medicine too soon your infection is likely to return and could be more difficult to treat.
- ! Some people develop thrush after taking a course of antibiotics. If you think you have thrush speak to your doctor or pharmacist.
- ! If you are taking oral contraceptives, you should follow the advice in your 'pill booklet'. If you are unsure ask for advice from your doctor or pharmacist.

## Can clarithromycin cause problems

Along with their useful effects all medicines can cause unwanted side effects, which usually improve as your body adjusts to the new medicine. Speak with your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following side effects continue or become troublesome.

Clarithromycin can also cause other side effects but they are much less common, if you experience any other problems that you think may be caused by your medicine, speak with your doctor or pharmacist.

**Important:** If you experience a skin rash, itching, fever (high temperature), jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes) or joint pains, stop taking clarithromycin and contact your doctor immediately.

### **Common side-effects - these affect less than 1 in 10 people who take this medicine**

Nausea (feeling sick), vomiting (being sick), abdominal pain

Try taking the medicine immediately after food. Drink plenty of liquid. Stick to simple foods such as dry toast. If vomiting continues to be a problem speak to your doctor.

Diarrhoea

Drink plenty of water to replace lost fluids. If diarrhoea continues to be a problem speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

Indigestion or heartburn

Ask your pharmacist to recommend a suitable remedy. If this continues speak with your doctor.

Tooth or tongue discolouration and changes in taste

This will usually disappear after you finish your treatment. It is harmless.

Sore throat with inflamed gums, lips or tongue

Speak with your doctor if this becomes a problem.

Headache

Ask your pharmacist to recommend a suitable pain-killer. If headache continues speak with your doctor.

Changes in sense of smell

This will usually disappear after you finish your treatment. If it persists, see your doctor.

## How to store clarithromycin

! Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

! Store in a cool, dry place below 25°C, away from direct heat and light.