

# Metoclopramide

Names	The generic drug name is metoclopramide (met oh kloe pra' mide). The brand name is Reglan®. There may be other brand names for this medication.
How is Metoclopramide Administered?	Metoclopramide can be injected into a muscle (intramuscular/IM) or a vein (IV/intravenously). It is also available to take by mouth as a tablet, a dissolving tablet, or a liquid solution.
What Is It Used For?	Metoclopramide is given to relieve nausea, vomiting, heartburn, stomach pain, and bloating.
How Does it Work?	Metoclopramide strengthens the muscle of the sphincter (ring of muscle) between your esophagus and your stomach, helping to prevent stomach contents from going back into the esophagus. It also stimulates the muscles of the stomach and speeds up emptying stomach contents into the intestines.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• are allergic to metoclopramide or if you have any allergies</li><li>• are taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®), antihistamines, aspirin, cyclosporine, tranquilizers, tetracycline, narcotic pain medications, medications for anxiety, blood pressure, irritable bowel disease, motion sickness, nausea, Parkinson's, ulcers, pain, or urinary problems .</li><li>• have or have ever had an adrenal tumor; a seizure disorder; Parkinson's disease; high blood pressure; heart, liver, or kidney disease; a history of mental illness or depression; breast cancer; or an intestinal blockage, tear or bleeding in your stomach or intestines</li><li>• are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal supplements you take.</b></p>

What Are Some  
Possible Side Effects?

- Drowsiness, fatigue, and/or restlessness
- Constipation and/or diarrhea

How Can I Manage  
These Side Effects?

- Don't drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how this medication affects you.
- Drink 2-3 quarts a day to help prevent constipation and dehydration.
- To help prevent constipation, add fiber , fruits, and vegetables to your diet and keep your body moving.
- If you have constipation or diarrhea, ask your doctor what over the counter medications you can take.

When Should I Call  
the Doctor?

**Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- any sign of an allergic reaction: rash, hives, or severe skin rash. Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have signs of a severe reaction (anaphylaxis): difficulty breathing; shortness of breath; swelling of your lips, throat, or tongue; dizziness or fainting
- involuntary movements of your limbs or eyes
- spasm of the neck, face, or jaw muscles
- depression

What Else Should I  
Know About  
Metoclopramide?

- Long-term or high-dose use has been linked to tardive dyskinesia, even after the drug is no longer taken. The elderly are at greater risk. Signs of tardive dyskinesia: involuntary, repetitive movements of the extremities, lip smacking, grimacing, tongue protrusion, rapid eye movements or blinking, lip puckering or pursing, and impaired movement of the fingers. Symptoms are rarely reversible and there is no known treatment. Symptoms may lessen or resolve when medication is stopped.
- May speed up effects of alcohol, diazepam/Valium®, cyclosporine.
- Alcohol is likely to add to the drowsiness caused by this drug.
- May decrease the effects of digoxin and cimetidine (Tagamet).
- Store at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- Measure the oral liquid with a marked measuring spoon/cup.
- If you miss an oral dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.**
- For more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.