

Oxybutynin

Names	Oxybutynin (ox i byoo' ti nin) is the generic drug name. Ditropan® is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
Why am I Taking This Medication?	This medication is used to treat overactive bladder - a condition in which the bladder muscles contract uncontrollably (spasms) and cause frequent urination, an urgent need to urinate, and/or the inability to control urination.
How is it Given and How Does it Work?	<p>This medication is taken by mouth as a tablet, a long-acting tablet, or a liquid.</p> <p>Oxybutynin is in a class of medications called anticholinergics. It works by relaxing the bladder muscles.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Oxybutynin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to oxybutynin• have or have ever had narrow angle glaucoma, any condition that stops your bladder from emptying completely, or any condition that causes your stomach to empty slowly or incompletely• are taking any medicines that make you sleepy such as sleeping pills, tranquilizers, cold and allergy medicine, or narcotic pain medication• have or have ever had ulcerative colitis, GERD, hiatal hernia, hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid), myasthenia gravis, fast or irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure, or heart, liver, or kidney disease• are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>

How Should I
Use
Oxybutynin?

- Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Do not use more medicine than your doctor tells you.
- Take this medicine on an empty stomach. If it upsets your stomach, take it with food.
- If you miss a dose, try to take it as soon as possible. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next regular dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.
- **The extended-release tablet (Ditropan® XL) is NOT the same as the regular-release tablet or liquid (Ditropan®).** Use the exact medicine that your doctor prescribed. Do not use a different medicine, even if the names look alike.
- Swallow the extended-release table whole. Do not crush, break, or chew it.
- Measure the oral liquid medicine with a marked measuring spoon or medicine cup.

What Are Some
Possible Side
Effects?

- Dry mouth or eyes (less common - dry nose or skin)
- Dizziness and/or drowsiness
- Mild constipation
- Upset stomach, heartburn, nausea
- Blurred vision or (eye) sensitivity to light

How Can I
Manage These
Side Effects?

- Talk to your doctor about artificial tears (available over-the-counter) and other drops and ointments to relieve dry eyes and light sensitivity.
- To help avoid constipation, drink 2-3 quarts of fluid, particularly water, every day and eat foods high in fiber such as whole grains and raw fruits and vegetables - unless your doctor has restricted your foods or fluids. Walking and exercise is also helpful.
- If you have nausea, try taking your medication with food eating small, frequent meals during the day, and avoiding spicy and greasy foods.

When to Call
Your Doctor

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have:

- signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations

Please call us and let us know if you go to ER or are admitted to the hospital.

What Else Should I Know?

- Oxybutynin may make you drowsy or cause blurred vision. Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this medication affects you.
- Talk to your doctor about eating grapefruit and drinking grapefruit juice while taking this medicine.
- If you miss a dose. Take it as soon as possible. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next regular dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose
- Oxybutynin may control your symptoms but will not cure your condition. Continue to take oxybutynin even if you feel well. Do not stop taking it without talking to your doctor.
- You may notice some improvement in your symptoms within the first 2 weeks of your treatment. However, it may take 6–8 weeks to experience the full benefits. Talk to your doctor if your symptoms do not improve at all within 8 weeks.
- Do not drink alcohol while taking this medicine.
- This medicine may make you sweat less, cause your body to get too hot, and make it harder for your body to cool down when it gets very hot. Avoid extreme heat, and call your doctor or get emergency medical treatment if you have fever or other signs of heat stroke such as dizziness, nausea, headache, confusion, and fast pulse after you are exposed to heat.
- If you would like more information on oxybutynin, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.