



Advertisement

Moxidectin

Basics, Side Effects, Reviews & More

[Prices](#) [Drug Info](#) **Basics** [Uses](#) [FAQs](#) [Pros & Cons](#) [Tips](#)

Moxidectin is used to treat a parasitic infection called [onchocerciasis](#), also known as river blindness. It requires only one dose for treatment, but this medication can cause many side effects.

COMMON BRANDS

Moxidectin

DRUG CLASS

Antiparasitic

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Not a controlled medication

GENERIC STATUS

No lower-cost generic available

AVAILABILITY

Prescription only

Reviewed by:

Yen Nguyen, PharmD

Kristianne Hannemann, PharmD

Last reviewed on:

February 1, 2022

Advertisement

What is moxidectin?

How moxidectin works

Moxidectin is an anthelmintic (antiparasitic). It works by paralyzing the worms (*Onchocerca volvulus*) that are responsible for the onchocerciasis infection. It also affects the fertility of male and female worms, which lowers the amount of new worms that are produced.

What is moxidectin used for?

- Onchocerciasis in people 12 years and older

Moxidectin dosage forms



Tablet

2mg

Typical dosing for moxidectin

The typical dose is 8 mg by mouth taken once as a single dose.

Frequently asked questions about moxidectin

✓ What is onchocerciasis?

Onchocerciasis is an infection caused by a parasitic worm called *Onchocerca volvulus*. Onchocerciasis, also known as "river blindness," is spread through the bite of an infected Simulium blackfly found near streams and rivers of remote rural villages in Africa, Yemen, and South America. Not everyone experiences symptoms when infected, but many people do. Symptoms include itchy rash, bumps under your skin, and vision problems or even blindness.

> Is one dose of moxidectin enough to treat my infection?

> Is moxidectin the same as Cydectin (moxidectin)?

> Is moxidectin safe in humans if it's also used in animals?

> Can I take moxidectin if I'm pregnant?

Pros and cons of moxidectin

Pros

-  Only needs to be taken once
-  Can be taken in people 12 years and older
-  Works well to treat onchocerciasis infections
-  Can take with or without food

Cons

-  Commonly causes flu-like symptoms during the first week of treatment
-  Not recommended during breastfeeding
-  Can't be taken in people younger than 12 years old
-  Doesn't kill the adult form of the worm, so might have to follow up with provider

Pharmacist tips for moxidectin

-  Take moxidectin with or without food.
-  Moxidectin comes in 2 mg tablets, so you'll need to take four tablets at the same time to make up your dose of 8 mg.
-  Once you open the moxidectin bottle, use the tablets within 24 hours or they might not work as well.
-  It's common to experience flu-like symptoms during the first week of treatment, which include feeling sick, muscle pain, headache, fast heart rate, dizziness, and itching. If you have concerns, contact your provider.
-  If you feel dizzy, faint, or light-headed after taking moxidectin, it's best to lie down until you feel better.
-  Moxidectin can pass into breast milk and harm your baby, so it's not recommended to breastfeed while taking this medication and for 7 days after stopping.



It's important to follow up with your provider after treatment, since moxidectin only damages the adult worms and doesn't kill them.



Prices for moxidectin start at just \$ with a GoodRx coupon. They're fast, easy-to-use and free!

[View Coupon Prices](#)

What are the side effects of moxidectin?

With any medication, there are risks and benefits. Even if the medication is working, you may experience some unwanted side effects.

-  Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:
 - **Serious allergic reaction:** itching, headache, fever, rash, hives, dizziness, swollen arms or legs, swollen lymph nodes, joint pain, muscle pain, chills, feeling of pins and needles, weakness, eye infection, eye pain, eye itch, eyelid swelling, blurry vision, sensitivity to light, vision changes, red eye, eye discomfort, watery eyes
 - **Encephalopathy (brain damage) in people co-infected with Loa loa:** confusion, memory loss, personality change, unable to concentrate, tiredness, loss of consciousness
-  The following side effects may get better over time as your body gets used to the medication. Let your doctor know immediately if you continue to experience these symptoms or if they worsen over time.

Common side effects

- Itching (65%)
- Muscle and joint pain (64%)
- Headache (58%)

- Fast heart rate (39%)
- Rash (37%)
- Stomach pain (31%)
- Low blood pressure (30%)
- Fever or chills (27%)
- Flu-like symptoms (23%)
- Cough (17%)

Other side effects

- Lymph node pain
- Dizziness
- Diarrhea or stomach inflammation
- Low sodium levels
- Swelling in arms or legs
- Eye pain or itching
- Vision changes

Source: [DailyMed](#)

The following side effects have also been reported:

[View More](#)



What are the risks and warnings for moxidectin?

Moxidectin can cause some serious health issues. This risk may be even higher for certain groups. If this worries you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about other options

Allergic or inflammatory reactions

- **Risk factors:** *First week of treatment | Severe infection*

Moxidectin can cause allergic or inflammatory reactions (called Mazzotti reactions), which can affect the skin, eyes, and other parts of your body. Mazzotti reactions typically occur and go away in the first week after taking moxidectin. Let your provider know right away if you experience any signs of Mazzotti reaction, such as itching, headache, fever, rash, hives, dizziness, fast heartbeat, swollen arms or legs, swollen lymph nodes, joint or muscle pain, chills, feeling of pins and needles, weakness, eye pain, eye itching or swelling, blurry vision, sensitivity to light, changes in vision, eye discomfort, or watery eyes.

Low blood pressure upon standing

- **Risk factors:** *First 2 days of treatment*

Moxidectin can lower your blood pressure, especially when you change from a lying or sitting position to a standing position. This can occur one or two days after taking moxidectin, and generally happens when you get up after lying down for 5 minutes. This problem should go away after a little bit of rest. If you feel dizzy or lightheaded, lie down and rest until the symptoms go away. Speak to your provider if you have concerns.

Brain problems

- **Risk factors:** *Infected with Loa loa*

People with onchocerciasis who are also infected with a worm called Loa loa are at higher risk for a life-threatening brain condition called encephalopathy, which can lead to brain damage and death. Let your provider know before taking moxidectin if you think that you've been exposed to Loa loa, and they can get you tested to make sure this is the right medication for you. Report any problems relating to your brain, such as confusion, memory loss, personality change, concentration problems, tiredness, or loss of consciousness to your provider right away.

Swelling

- **Risk factors:** *Hyper-reactive onchodermatitis (sowda)*

Moxidectin can raise the risk of swelling, especially in the arms and legs, in people who have hyper-reactive onchodermatitis (sowda). [Sowda](#) is a severe form of onchocerciasis, where people are more sensitive and have a more severe skin reaction. Let your provider know if you notice any swelling anywhere in your body, since you might need to be treated.

What are alternatives to moxidectin?

There are a number of medications that your doctor can prescribe in place of moxidectin. Compare a few possible alternatives below.

Moxidectin

Drug Class: **Antiparasitic**

[View more drug info](#) 

\$

lowest GoodRx price

[View Prices](#)

Ivermectin (Stromectol)

Drug Class: **Antiparasitic**

[View more drug info](#) 

\$27.85

lowest GoodRx price

[View Prices](#)





Subscribe and save.

Get prescription saving tips and more from GoodRx Health. Enter your email to sign up.

Email address

Subscribe

By signing up, I agree to GoodRx's Terms and Privacy Policy, and to receive marketing messages from GoodRx.

GoodRx

Copyright ©2011-2021 GoodRx, Inc.



[Cookie Preferences](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

GoodRx works to make its website accessible to all, including those with disabilities. If you are having difficulty accessing this website, please call or email us at (855) 268-2822 or ada@goodrx.com so that we can provide you with the services you require through alternative means.

The information contained in the Truven Health Micromedex products as delivered by GoodRx is intended as an educational aid only. It is not intended as medical advice for individual conditions or treatment. It is not a substitute for a medical exam, nor does it replace the need for services provided by medical professionals. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before taking any prescription or over the counter drugs (including any herbal medicines or supplements) or following any treatment or regimen. Only your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist can provide you with advice on what is safe and effective for you.

The use of the Truven Health products is at your sole risk. These products are provided 'AS IS' and 'as available' for use, without warranties of any kind, either express or implied. Truven Health and GoodRx make no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, usefulness or completeness of any of the information contained in the products. Additionally, TRUVEN HEALTH MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE OPINIONS OR OTHER SERVICE OR DATA YOU MAY ACCESS, DOWNLOAD OR USE AS A RESULT OF USE OF THE THOMSON REUTERS HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS. ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE ARE

WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE ARE

HEREBY EXCLUDED. Truven Health does not assume any responsibility or risk for your use of the Truven Health products.

