

PRESCRIBING DOXYCYCLINE POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (DOXYPEP) IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Patient requests DoxyPEP
or
Patient meets eligibility criteria.

Then

Proactively discuss DoxyPEP

Eligibility

Assigned male at birth*
AND
Has sex with men

AND

Diagnosis of syphilis or 2 other bacterial STIs in the past 12 months

OR CONSIDER IF

An upcoming heightened period of risk is identified, e.g. sex on-site venue, or sex events
or
Concurrent male and female partners, or partners at risk of pregnancy
or
Māori or Pacific Peoples, given inequities in syphilis for these populations.

Proceed to Step 2

2 CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Complete patient's medical history
and routine STI testing

Check for allergies, interactions
or contraindication for doxycycline.

Proceed to Step 3

3 PATIENT EDUCATION

Regimen: 200mg (2x 100mg pills) taken as a
single dose up to 72 hours after sex.

Maximising effect with minimal dosing:

- Limit to one dose every 72 hours (maximum of 3 doses per week).
- Do not take a dose after each event unless at least 72 hours have passed since the last dose.
A single Monday morning dose will cover weekend risk.

Discuss potential benefits and harms of medication, antimicrobial resistance risk.

Discuss doxycycline side effects and mitigations, photosensitivity, oesophagitis.

Quarterly routine STI testing - multisite pharyngeal, urine, rectal sampling and blood tests for HIV and syphilis are required for ongoing supply of DoxyPEP.

Proceed to Step 4

4 PRESCRIBING

Prescribe up to 72x 100mg tablets
of doxycycline

This supply is sufficient for a minimum of 12 weeks, assuming 1 dose every 72 hours.
Length of time until repeat will vary depending on the frequency of the client's sexual activity.

Do not exceed 72x 100mg tablets in any 12-week period.

Do not provide repeat script until previous stock is depleted. Reevaluate need for DoxyPEP with every prescription.

Clinician Notes

- Review ongoing need for medication with every repeat prescription.
- If gonorrhoea is present, collect a culture swab for resistance testing prior to treatment.
- If DoxyPEP user presents as a contact of an STI, manage as per NZ STI Management Guidelines.
- The use of DoxyPEP may affect syphilis serology results, therefore any reactive syphilis serology (including EIA only) should be discussed with a sexual health physician.

*May include cisgender men, transgender women and non-binary people

Source: This guidance is based on the NZSHS doxy-PEP statement for Aotearoa New Zealand – www.nzshs.org