

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