



# Meloxicam

**Generic Name:** meloxicam (mel OKS i kam)

**Brand Names:** *Mobic, Vivlodex, Meloxicam Comfort Pac [DSC]*

Medically reviewed by **Sophia Entringer, PharmD** Last updated on Jan 4, 2019.

## What is meloxicam?

Meloxicam is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It works by reducing hormones that cause inflammation and pain in the body.

Meloxicam is used to treat pain or inflammation caused by **rheumatoid arthritis** and **osteoarthritis** in adults.

Meloxicam is also used to treat juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in children who are at least 2 years old.

Meloxicam may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Important information

Meloxicam can increase your risk of fatal heart attack or stroke, especially if you use it long term or take high doses, or if you have heart disease. Do not use this medicine just before or after heart bypass surgery (coronary artery bypass graft, or CABG).

Get emergency medical help if you have chest pain, weakness, shortness of breath, slurred speech, or problems with vision or balance.

Meloxicam may also cause stomach or intestinal bleeding, which can be fatal. These conditions can occur without warning while you are using meloxicam, especially in older adults.

Call your doctor at once if you have symptoms of stomach bleeding such as black, bloody, or tarry stools, or coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds.

Avoid smoking and drinking alcohol as they also increase your risk of stomach bleeding.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before using any other cold, allergy, or pain medicine. Medicines similar to meloxicam are contained in many combination medicines. Check the label to see if a medicine contains an NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) such as aspirin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, or naproxen.

Meloxicam can increase your risk of fatal heart attack or stroke, especially if you use it long term or take high doses, or if you have heart disease. Even people without heart disease or risk factors could have a stroke or heart attack while taking this medicine.

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Do not use this medicine just before or after heart bypass surgery (coronary artery bypass graft, or CABG).

Meloxicam may also cause stomach or intestinal bleeding, which can be fatal. These conditions can occur without warning while you are using meloxicam, especially in older adults.

You should not use meloxicam if you are allergic to it, or if you have ever had an asthma attack or severe allergic reaction after taking aspirin or an NSAID.

To make sure meloxicam is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or if you smoke;
- a history of heart attack, stroke, or blood clot;
- a history of stomach ulcers or bleeding;
- asthma;
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis);
- liver disease; or
- fluid retention.

**Taking meloxicam during the last 3 months of pregnancy may harm the unborn baby.** Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Meloxicam may cause a delay in ovulation (the release of an egg from an ovary). You should not take this medicine if you are undergoing fertility treatment, or are otherwise trying to get pregnant.

Meloxicam can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. Talk to your doctor before breastfeeding while using this medicine.

Meloxicam is not FDA approved for use by anyone younger than 2 years old.

## **How should I take meloxicam?**

Take meloxicam exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not take this medicine in larger amounts or for longer than recommended. Use the lowest dose that is effective in treating your condition.

You may take meloxicam with or without food. Taking meloxicam with food may help minimize gastrointestinal irritation.

Shake the oral suspension (liquid) well just before you measure a dose. Measure liquid medicine with the dosing syringe provided, or with a special dose-measuring spoon or medicine cup. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

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If a child is taking this medication, tell your doctor if the child has any changes in weight. Meloxicam doses are based on weight in children.

If you use this medicine long-term, you may need frequent medical tests.

Store at room temperature, away from moisture and heat. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

Read all patient information, medication guides, and instruction sheets provided to you. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

**See also:**

**Meloxicam dosage information** (in more detail)

## **What happens if I miss a dose?**

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## **What happens if I overdose?**

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## **What should I avoid while taking meloxicam?**

Avoid smoking and drinking alcohol as they also increase your risk of stomach bleeding.

Avoid taking aspirin and other NSAIDs while you are taking meloxicam.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before using any cold, allergy, or pain medication. Many medicines available over the counter contain aspirin or other medicines similar to meloxicam. Taking certain products together can cause you to get too much of this type of medication. Check the label to see if a medicine contains aspirin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, or naproxen.

## **Meloxicam side effects**

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to meloxicam**: sneezing, runny or stuffy nose; wheezing or trouble breathing; hives; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of a heart attack or stroke**: chest pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, sudden numbness or weakness on one side of the body, slurred speech, feeling short of breath.

Stop using meloxicam and call your doctor at once if you have:

- the first sign of any skin rash, no matter how mild;
- shortness of breath (even with mild exertion);
- swelling or rapid weight gain;

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- signs of stomach bleeding - bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- liver problems - nausea, upper stomach pain, itching, tired feeling, flu-like symptoms, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- kidney problems - little or no urinating, painful or difficult urination, swelling in your feet or ankles, feeling tired or short of breath;
- low red blood cells (anemia) - pale skin, feeling light-headed or short of breath, rapid heart rate, trouble concentrating; or
- severe skin reaction - fever, sore throat, swelling in your face or tongue, burning in your eyes, skin pain followed by a red or purple skin rash that spreads (especially in the face or upper body) and causes blistering and peeling.

Common meloxicam side effects may include:

- upset stomach, nausea, vomiting, heartburn;
- diarrhea, constipation, gas;
- dizziness; or
- cold symptoms, flu symptoms.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also:

Meloxicam side effects (in more detail)

## What other drugs will affect meloxicam?

Ask your doctor before using meloxicam if you take an antidepressant such as citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine (Prozac), fluvoxamine, paroxetine, sertraline (Zoloft), trazodone, or vilazodone. Taking any of these medicines with an NSAID may cause you to bruise or bleed easily.

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using, especially:

- cyclosporine;
- lithium;
- methotrexate;
- sodium polystyrene sulfonate (Kayexalate);
- a blood thinner (warfarin, Coumadin, Jantoven);
- heart or blood pressure medication, including a diuretic or "water pill" and ACE inhibitors; or
- steroid medicine (such as prednisone).

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This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with meloxicam, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication guide.

See also:

[Meloxicam drug interactions](#) (in more detail)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use meloxicam only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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## Related questions

- [Is meloxicam a narcotic?](#)
- [Is meloxicam very similar to Celebrex?](#)
- [Is meloxicam a sulfa drug?](#)
- [Can I take Meloxicam and Aleve or Tylenol together?](#)
- [Can meloxicam cause drowsiness and headache?](#)
- [How long do I wait after taking 400 mg ibuprofen to take 15 mg of meloxicam?](#)
- [Is meloxicam helpful in gout treatment?](#)
- [What is the difference between meloxicam and ibuprofen?](#)