

What is most important to remember?

- Use cetirizine (Zyrtec®) as directed by your doctor
- It is most effective when used 1 to 3 hours before you come in contact with an allergen
- You may get this medicine without a prescription. However, you should not start any new medicine, over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies without talking to your doctor
- Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists that you are using cetirizine (Zyrtec®)
- Contact your doctor if your symptoms become worse or do not get better

If you have questions:

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for more information about cetirizine (Zyrtec®)

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**Cetirizine (Zyrtec®):
Important Patient Information**



MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER



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What does cetirizine (Zyrtec®) do?

- It is an antihistamine. It is used to treat symptoms of “hay fever” and other allergies. Symptoms include sneezing, runny nose, itching, and watery eyes
- It is also used to treat hives

How should cetirizine (Zyrtec®) be used?

- Use this medicine exactly as directed by your doctor
- It is usually taken one (1) time a day with or without food. Sometimes this drug is taken on an as-needed basis
- It is most useful if started before contact with the allergen. Try to take it at least 1 to 3 hours before exposure to known allergens

Who should know I am taking cetirizine (Zyrtec®)?

- Keep a list of all your medicines (prescription, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) and give it to your healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, or physician assistant)

Are there any interactions with other drugs that I need to worry about?

- It has many drug interactions that may increase your risk of side effects
- Do not start new prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, or herbal and dietary supplements without telling your doctor

What side effects could occur with cetirizine (Zyrtec®)?

- Feeling lightheaded, sleepy, having blurred eyesight, or a change in thinking clearly
- Avoid driving or tasks that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how the drug affects you
- Dry mouth

What are some things that I need to be aware of when taking cetirizine (Zyrtec®)?

- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are currently breastfeeding
- Talk with your doctor if you have kidney or liver disease
- Avoid beer wine, mixed drinks, or other drugs and natural products that slow your actions
- You may feel better within a few hours after taking this drug
- Store at room temperature in a cool, dry place. Do not store in the bathroom
- Keep out of the reach of children and pets
- This drug should not be used in children under the age of 2 years old

What should I do if I forget to take cetirizine (Zyrtec®)?

- Many times this drug is taken on an as-needed basis
- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it
- If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal dose time
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses

If you have any of the following side effects, call your doctor or visit the emergency room immediately:

- Tightness in the chest or throat
- Trouble breathing or talking
- Very bad dizziness or passing out
- Swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat
- Feeling very weak or tired

