

# Nonoxynol 9

*no-NOX-i-nole nine*

Nonoxynol 9, also known by several brand names, is a type of medicine called a spermicide. Spermicides work by creating a chemical barrier between vaginal skin and semen. Spermicides contain chemicals that destroy sperm ejaculated into the vagina.

## **HIV/AIDS-Related Uses**

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Nonoxynol 9 is not approved by the FDA for use in the treatment or prevention of HIV infection. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people. Use of nonoxynol 9 may increase the risk of becoming infected with HIV.

## **Dosage Information**

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Nonoxynol 9 comes in vaginal cream, vaginal film, vaginal foam, vaginal gel, vaginal jelly, and vaginal suppository forms.

## **Contraindications**

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Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

## **Possible Side Effects**

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Along with its desired effects, nonoxynol 9 can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include allergic vaginitis, contact dermatitis, and urinary tract infections. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include burning, stinging, warmth, itching, or other irritation of the skin, penis, rectum, or vagina; vaginal discharge; and vaginal dryness or odor. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

## **Drug and Food Interactions**

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A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

## **Clinical Trials**

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For information on clinical trials that involve Nonoxynol 9, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Nonoxynol 9 AND HIV Infections.

## **For More Information**

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Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: [http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live\\_help](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help) Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET