

Viagra

What is Viagra?

Viagra is the brand name for sildenafil. It's a medicine that doctors prescribe to help men with erectile dysfunction have sex.

What is erectile dysfunction?

Erectile dysfunction is the inability of the penis to become rigid (hard), or to stay rigid long enough to complete sexual intercourse. Erectile dysfunction is sometimes called impotence.

How should I take Viagra?

Follow your doctor's instructions. Usually, a man takes 1 tablet 1 hour before he plans to have sex. You should not take more than 1 tablet in 24 hours. The medicine comes in tablets of 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg. Most patients start with 50 mg.

Even if you take this medicine, you still need physical and mental stimulation and desire to have an erection. If your first dose doesn't help, call your doctor. Your doctor may want to change your tablet strength.

What are the side effects?

Viagra has some common side effects:

Headache, Flushing (face and upper body turning red and warm), Stomach upset, Runny nose (sniffles), Vision changes (things look blue)

Headache is the most common side effect. Vision changes are the least common. Talk to your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you.

Can everyone use it?

No. Your doctor will tell you if it can help you. You shouldn't use Viagra if you take any of these forms of nitroglycerin or any other nitrates:

- Isosorbide mononitrate (brand names: Ismo, Monoket, Imdur)
- Isosorbide dinitrate (brand names: Isordil, Sorbitrate)
- Sublingual nitroglycerin tablets or spray (brand names: Nitrostat, Nitrolingual Spray)
- Transdermal nitroglycerin patches or paste (brand names: Minitran, Nitro-Dur, Transderm-Nitro TTS)

If you use Viagra and get chest pains, be sure to tell the paramedics, nurses or doctors at the hospital that you use Viagra and how long ago it was that you last took it.