Ranbaxy contains clarithromycin and belongs to the family of medicines known as macrolide antibiotics. It is an antibacterial agent with broad spectrum activity against many pathogens especially those responsible for both upper and lower respiratory tract infections. It is very effective against following microorganisms:

- Chlamydia pneumoniae
- Mycoplasma pneumoniae
- Legionella spp.
- Staphylococcus aureus
- Streptococcus pyogenes
- Moraxella catarrhalis
- Streptococcus pneumoniae
- Haemophilus influenzae

As you can see, this medicine is very effective against numerous pathogens and because of that it is one of the most commonly used antibiotics in medicine today.

This medicine may be used for H.Pylori eradication in combination with H2 antihistamines or proton pump inhibitors.

What do you need to know before you take Ranbaxy

Ranbaxy may cause central nervous system adverse effects and because of that it should not be
used in patients with epilepsy and psychiatric disorders. Mechanism responsible for Ranbaxy-induced neurotoxicity is not known yet, but studies have shown that early discovering of neurotoxicity symptoms increases patient chances for full recovery.³

This medicine is associated with an increased risk of heart problems (arrhythmia and heart attack), which has been shown in population based study in Hong Kong.⁴ Therefore, it should not be given to patients who have hypertension, arrhythmia or any other heart problems. Also, it should not be given together with other medications that may cause arrhythmia (e.g. cisapride, pimozide, ergotamine and others).

Clarithromycin-induced progressive cholestatic liver disease has also been reported⁵, which means that it should not be given to patients having liver problems. If you get liver damage symptoms (e.g. jaundice, pain in the right upper abdomen and loss of appetite) you should go to your doctor right away.

Like almost all medicines, this one too should not be taken together with alcohol because concurrently use may cause adverse effects.

### Ranbaxy safety in pregnant woman and breastfeeding mothers

There is no much information regarding its safety in pregnancy, although animal studies have shown increased risk of cleft palate and heart and blood vessels anomalies.⁶ FDA has classified this medicine into category C, which means animal studies have shown harmful effects to the fetus, but there are still no human studies.

We advice you to check with your doctor before you start using this medicine during breastfeeding, because small quantities may get into breast milk.

### How to use Ranbaxy

Dosage forms include: immediate release tablets, extended release tablets and oral suspension.

### Recommended dosage regimen for adults

**Immediate release tablets:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinusitis, tonsillitis and pharyngitis</td>
<td>500 mg twice a day for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchitis caused by H. influenzae</td>
<td>500 mg twice a day for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchitis caused by S.pneumoniae</td>
<td>250 mg twice a day for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia caused by Mycoplasma pneumoniae</td>
<td>250 mg twice a day for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia caused by Legionella</td>
<td>500 mg twice a day for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extended release tablets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinusitis, tonsillitis and pharyngitis</td>
<td>1000 mg once a day for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchitis caused by H. influenzae</td>
<td>1000 mg once a day for one or two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchitis caused by S. pneumoniae</td>
<td>1000 mg once a day for one or two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia caused by Mycoplasma pneumoniae</td>
<td>1000 mg once a day for one or two weeks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, you can visit: https://www.drugs.com/dosage/clarithromycin.html

**Interactions with other medications and food**

Ranbaxy should not be taken concurrently with medications listed below:

- Medicines used in the treatment of AIDS, such as: zidovudine. If these two medicines are administered concurrently, it may lower plasma levels of zidovudine and reduce its efficacy against human immunodeficiency virus.⁷
- Ergot alkaloids (ergotamine), used to treat migraine headaches. Simultaneously use of these medicines may cause ergotism.⁸
- Blood pressure medications.
- Medications used for arrhythmia.
- Theophylline.

You should tell your doctor about all medicines and herbal remedies you are using.

**Side effects**

This medicine may result in following side effects:

- Digestive disorders
- Liver impairment (jaundice, pain in right upper abdomen and loss of appetite)
- Bad taste in the mouth
- Itchy skin
- Vaginal itching
- Allergic reaction

If you get any of side effects, you should call your doctor immediately.

**References**


