

Commonly Asked Questions about Tablet Splitting

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What is tablet splitting?

Tablet splitting is when a higher strength tablet is cut in half to give your prescribed dose of medication. For example, your doctor prescribes Lipitor 10 mg tablets. You could talk to your doctor and pharmacist about getting Lipitor 20 mg tablets and then cutting them in half to get your 10 mg dose. This allows you to get the same dose by purchasing fewer tablets. Tablet splitting programs have been successfully used in many healthcare plans across the country.

What are the benefits of tablet splitting?

As you know, the costs of medications have risen sharply in the past few years. Tablet splitting may allow you, your health plan, and your employer to all save money on your prescription. Often, all strengths of one medication are similar in price. Splitting tablets can lower the cost per day of your medications by 40% to 50%! It also may make your medicine smaller and easier to swallow.

Can all my medications be split in half?

No. Some medications are specially designed so that they may not work properly if they are split in half, such as capsules, medications with special coatings, and time-release products. Some tablets can be split even if they do not have a line to break the tablet in half. Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to help you determine if your medications can be split in half. We have compiled a list of brand and generic medications that could potentially be split for your information. Medications that are marked with an asterisk (*) may be scored.

BRAND NAME MEDICATIONS THAT MAY BE SPLIT

Accupril*	Aceon*	Actos	Amaryl*
Ambien	Atacand	Augmentin*	Avandia
Avapro	Bextra	Cefzil	Celexa*
Cipro	Clarinex	Claritin	Coreg
Coumadin*	Cozaar	Depakote	Digitek
Dilantin tablets	Diovan HCT	Endocet*	Evista
Glucovance	Hyzaar	Klor-Con M 20*	Lanoxin*
Levaquin	Levoxyl*	Lipitor	Monopril
Neurontin tablets	Norvasc	Nystatin	Paxil*
Plavix	Pravachol	Premarin	Prevacid tablets
Prinivil*	Remeron*	Risperdal	Seroquel
Serzone	Singulair	Skelaxin*	Synthroid*
Topamax	Toprol XL*	Tricor	Ultram*
Univasc*	Valtrex*	Viagra	Vioxx
Zestoretic	Zestril*	Zithromax	Zocor
Zoloft*	Zyprexa	Zyrtec	

How do I split my tablets in half?

There are many different ways to split tablets in half. One way is to purchase a tablet splitter from your local pharmacy (they usually cost less than \$10). These tablet splitters are safe and easy to use. All you need to do is place the tablet in the proper place and then when the splitter is closed a steel blade cuts the tablet in half. Some tablets are scored and have a line dividing the dose in half and may be able to be snapped in half using your fingers. Other alternatives may be available - Ask your pharmacist for more information.

Is it safe to split my medications in half?

Tablet splitting is generally safe when done on appropriate medications. As previously mentioned, not all medications can be split. When tablet splitting is done correctly on appropriate medications, you will receive your prescribed dose with no adverse effects.

GENERIC MEDICATIONS THAT MAY BE SPLIT

Acyclovir tabs*	APAP/codeine	Albuterol tabs	Allopurinol*
Alprazolam*	Amitriptyline	Amoxicillin tablets*	Amoxicillin/clav*
Aspirin	Atenolol*	Bumetidine	Buspirone*
Captopril*	Carbidopa/levodopa*	Carisoprodol	Cephalexin tablets*
Clonazepam*	Clonidine*	Cyclobenzaprine	Diazepam*
Diclofenac	Diltiazem tablets*	Doxazosin*	Doxycycline tablets
Enalapril*	Estradiol*	Estropipate	Famotidine
Fluoxetine tablets*	Folic acid*	Furosemide*	Gemfibrozil*
Glipizide	Glyburide*	Hydrochlorothiazide*	Hydrocodone/APAP tabs
Hydroxyzine tablets	Ibuprofen	Isosorbide mononitrate*	Labetalol
Lisinopril*	Lorazepam*	Lovastatin	Meclizine*
Medroxyprogesterone*	Metformin*	Methylprednisolone*	Metoclopramide*
Metronidazole	Minocycline tablets	Metoprolol*	Nadolol
Naproxen*	Oxycodone/APAP	Penicillin VK*	Potassium Chloride*
Prednisone*	Promethazine*	Propoxyphene N/APAP	Propranolol*
Ranitidine	Spironolactone*	Temazepam tablets	Terazosin
Tetracycline tablets	Tramadol	Trazodone*	Triamterene/HCTZ*
Trimethoprim/SMZ*	Verapamil*	Warfarin*	



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