

Photosensitizing Medication List

Some medicines contain ingredients that may cause photosensitivity -- a chemically induced change in the skin.

Photosensitivity makes a person sensitive to sunlight and can cause sunburn-like symptoms, a rash or other unwanted side effects. It can be triggered by products applied to the skin or medicines taken by mouth or injected. Photosensitivity occurs after exposure to ultraviolet light – either natural sunlight or artificial light, such as a tanning booth.

- Antibiotics
(ciprofloxacin, doxycycline, levofloxacin, ofloxacin, tetracycline, trimethoprim)
- Antifungals
(flucytosine, griseofulvin, voriconazole)
- Antihistamines
(cetirizine, diphenhydramine, loratadine, promethazine, cyproheptadine)
- Cholesterol-lowering drugs
(simvastatin, atorvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin)
- Diuretics
(thiazide diuretics: hydrochlorothiazide, chlorthalidone, chlorothiazide.; other diuretics: furosemide and triamterene)
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
(ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib, piroxicam, ketoprofen)
- Oral contraceptives and estrogens
- Phenothiazines
(tranquilizers, anti-emetics: examples, chlorpromazine, fluphenazine, promethazine, thioridazine, prochlorperazine)
- Psoralens
(methoxsalen, trioxsalen)
- Retinoids
(acitretin, isotretinoin)
- Sulfonamides
(acetazolamide, sulfadiazine, sulfamethizole, sulfamethoxazole, sulfapyridine, sulfasalazine, sulfasoxazole)
- Sulfonylureas for type 2 diabetes
(glipizide, glyburide)
- Alpha-hydroxy acids (AHAs) in cosmetics

This list and additional information are available on the FDA's website:

Consult your doctor or pharmacist about your specific medications.

