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LOW DOSE DOXYCYCLINE (APPRILON, ORACEA)

What is Doxycycline?

- Doxycycline is an antibiotic but also has anti-inflammatory properties.
- It is used in many hair loss conditions, including some scarring alopecia and some inflammatory alopecias and dysesthesias on account of these anti-inflammatory properties. It is also used in treating some scalp rosacea-like conditions

What is Aprilon (ORACEA in the US)?

- Aprilon is a special form of doxycycline that does not have antibiotic properties and does not change the gut flora to any significant extent.
- This medication does, however, stop inflammation.
- Aprilon is approved for use in treating rosacea but we often use it in treating scalp burning and dysesthesias.

What are possible side effects?

- Dr. Donovan will review all relevant side effects with you at your appointment.
- Important side effects to know about include nausea (2%), diarrhea (4%), upset stomach (2%) and headaches (2%). Anyone with these side effects needs to stop the medication and let us know.
- In general, only about 3-4 % of users of Aprilon are likely to discontinue the medication.
- Aprilon can make some people more sensitive to the sun so sun protection and sunscreens will be needed to avoid burning.
- Some women are more likely to experience vaginal yeast infections when using antibiotics like Aprilon.
- The medication should not be used by those who are pregnant or breastfeeding or those who are allergic to tetracyclines.

