

Medication Information Sheet for Patient

Azithromycin

Oral (by mouth): Tablet

This medication is a macrolide antibiotic and is used to treat infections.

DO NOT USE if you had an allergic reaction to azithromycin, erythromycin, or similar medicines, or if you have a history of liver problems caused by azithromycin. This medication is not right for everyone.

How to use this medication:

Capsule: Swallow whole. Do not cut, break or chew. You may take this medication with or without food.

Take all of the medicine in your prescription to clear up your infection, even if you feel better after the first few doses. Do not use more than directed. Never share your medicine with anyone. Keep all medicine out of the reach of children.

Read and follow the patient instructions that come with this medicine. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

Missed dose: If you are taking multiple doses, take the dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take a regular dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.

Tip: Take this medication with food or milk to avoid upset stomach. Avoid sex for 7 days after completing treatment.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid:

Some medicines can affect how azithromycin works. Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.

Tell your doctor if you are also using any of the following:

- Colchicine, cyclosporine, digoxin, nelfinavir, phenytoin
- Blood thinner (including warfarin)
- Ergot medicine
- Medicine for a heart rhythm problem (including amiodarone, dofetilide, procainamide, quinidine, sotalol)

Possible side effects while using this medication:

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing
- Blistering, peeling, red skin rash
- Dark urine, pale stools, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, stomach pain, yellow skin or eyes
- Fainting, dizziness, lightheadedness
- Fast, pounding, or uneven heartbeat, blurred vision, chest pain, trouble breathing, tiredness or weakness
- Feeling irritable or vomits after feeding (in babies)
- Severe diarrhea that may contain blood, stomach cramps, fever

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor: mild diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

Warnings while using this medication:

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you have kidney disease, liver disease, heart disease, heart rhythm problems, heart failure, or myasthenia gravis.

Tell your doctor if anyone in your family has heart rhythm problems.

This medicine may cause the following problems:

- Serious skin reactions, generalized rash
- Liver problems
- Blockage of stomach in babies
- Heart rhythm problems
- Increased risk of serious heart or blood vessel problems

This medicine can cause diarrhea. Call your doctor if the diarrhea becomes severe, does not stop, or is bloody. Do not take any medicine to stop diarrhea until you have talked to your doctor. Diarrhea can occur 2 months or more after you stop taking this medicine. It may occur 2 months or more after you stop using this medicine.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve or if they get worse.

Keep all appointments. Your doctor will do lab tests at regular visits to check on the effects of this medicine.