



Patient Education

Azithromycin (az-ith-roe-MYE-sin)

Brand Names	Zithromax® (There may be other brand names for this medication).
How is it Administered?	Azithromycin comes as a tablet and as a liquid, to take by mouth. It is usually taken with or without food once a day for 1-5 days. Azithromycin is also available in an injectable (IV) form.
What is it Used For?	Azithromycin is used to treat infections.
How Does it Work?	Azithromycin is in a class of medications called macrolide antibiotics. It works by stopping the growth of certain kinds of bacteria.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Receiving Azithromycin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to azithromycin or to any related medicines such as erythromycin, any other medications, foods, preservatives, or dyes• are pregnant or breastfeeding• have or have ever had cystic fibrosis, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), irregular heartbeat, or kidney or liver disease <p>This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects I May Experience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upset stomach/stomach pain• Mild diarrhea• Mild skin rash• Vomiting
How Can I Manage These Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your stomach is upset after taking this medication, try taking the next dose with food.• Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea or diarrhea.• If you get a rash, do not put anything on it unless your doctor says it is safe to do so.

When Should I
Call the Doctor?

Contact your doctor immediately if you have any of the following:

- signs of an allergic reaction: fast or irregular breathing; puffiness or swelling around the face or lower legs, shortness of breath, rash, hives, itching, or palpitations
- pain, redness, and swelling at site of injection
- severe abdominal or stomach cramps or pain
- severe and/or bloody diarrhea
- yellow coloring in your eyes or skin

What Else Should
I Know About
Azithromycin?

- Shake the liquid well before each use to mix the medication evenly. Use only the syringe provided to measure the correct amount of medication. Rinse the syringe with water after taking the full dose of medication.
- Take the tablets with a full glass of water.
- To help clear up your infection completely, *keep taking azithromycin for the full time of treatment*, even if you begin to feel better after a few days.
- If you take an antacid like Maalox or Mylanta, take it 2 hours before or 4 hours after you take your azithromycin.
- If you must take this medication for longer than 5 days, or must repeat another course of antibiotics, you may get oral thrush or a vaginal yeast infection. Call your doctor if you get white patches or sores in your mouth, if you have a change in your vaginal discharge, or if you develop vaginal or urethral itching or burning.
- If you miss a dose of this medicine, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double dose.
- Store tablets away from heat and direct light. Do not store in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink, or in other damp places. Heat or moisture may cause the medicine to break down.
- Keep liquid medicine tightly closed at room temperature or in the refrigerator, and throw away any unused medication after 10 days. Do not freeze.
- If you would like more information about Azithromycin, talk to your doctor.