

Azithromycin (Zithromax) FACT SHEET

Azithromycin (Zithromax) is used to treat bacterial infections in many different parts of the body. This medicine will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.

Before using this medication, the following should be considered:

Allergies – Tell your health care professional if you have ever had any unusual or allergic reactions to azithromycin or other related medicines such as erythromycin. Also tell your health care professional if you are allergic to any other items such as food, preservatives, or dyes.

Pregnancy – Azithromycin has not been studied in pregnant women. However, azithromycin has not been shown to cause birth defects or other problems in animal studies.

Breastfeeding – It is not known whether azithromycin passes into breast milk. Although most medicines pass into breast milk in small amounts, many of them may be used safely while breast-feeding. Mothers who are taking this medicine and who wish to breast-feed should discuss this with their doctor.

Other medicines – Although certain medicines should not be used together at all, in other cases two different medicines may be used together even if an interaction might occur. In these cases, your doctor may want to change the dose, or other precautions may be necessary. When you are taking azithromycin, it is especially important that your health care provider know if you are taking any of the following:

Antacids (aluminum and magnesium-containing) - *Antacids may decrease the amount of azithromycin in the blood, which may decrease its effects. To avoid problems, azithromycin should be taken at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after antacids.*

Other medical problems:

The presence of other medical problems may affect the use of azithromycin. Make sure you tell your doctor if you have any other medical problems, especially:

Liver disease - Patients with severe liver disease may have an increased chance of side effects.

Proper use of this medication:

- Oral suspension dosage form may be taken with or without food.

Precautions while using this medicine:

If your symptoms do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, check with your doctor.

Side effects of the medicine:

(These side effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. However, check with your doctor if any of the following side effects continue or are bothersome.)

- Diarrhea (mild); nausea; stomach pain or discomfort; vomiting
- Dizziness; headache, sleepiness, nervousness

Get help immediately if any of the following side effects occur:

- Fever or joint pain
- Skin rash and/or swelling of face, mouth, neck, hands, or feet
- Abdominal or stomach cramps or pain (severe); abdominal tenderness; diarrhea (watery and severe, which may be bloody)
- Difficulty breathing

