

Azithromycin Oral suspension

U.S. Trade Names

Zithromax

The list of names may not include all products that are available on the market.

What is this medicine?

AZITHROMYCIN (az ith roe MYE sin) is a macrolide antibiotic. It is used to treat or prevent certain kinds of bacterial infections. It will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your health care provider or pharmacist if you have questions.

What should I tell my health care provider before I take this medicine?

They need to know if you have any of these conditions:

- history of blood diseases, like leukemia
- history of irregular heartbeat
- kidney disease
- liver disease
- myasthenia gravis
- an unusual or allergic reaction to azithromycin, erythromycin, other macrolide antibiotics, foods, dyes, or preservatives
- pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- breast-feeding

How should I use this medicine?

Take this medicine by mouth. Follow the directions on the prescription label.

For the suspension already mixed by the pharmacist: Shake well before using. This medicine can be taken with food or on an empty stomach. If the medicine upsets your stomach, take it with food. Use a specially marked spoon, or container to measure the dose. Ask your pharmacist if you do not have one. Household spoons are not accurate. Take your medicine at regular intervals. Do not take your medicine more often than directed. Take all of your medicine as directed even if you think that you are better. Do not skip doses or stop your medicine early.

For the 1 gram single dose packet: This medicine can be taken with food or on an empty stomach. Empty the contents of a single dose packet into two ounces of water (about one quarter of a full glass). Mix and drink all the mixture at once. Add another two ounces of water to the glass, mix well and drink all of it, to make sure you take the full dose.

Talk to your pediatrician regarding the use of this medicine in children. While this drug may be prescribed for infants as young as 6 months for selected conditions, precautions do apply.

Overdosage: If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once. **NOTE:** This medicine is only for you. Do not share this medicine with others.

What if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only that dose. Do not take double or extra doses.

What may interact with this medicine?

Do not take this medicine with any of the following medications:

- cisapride
- dronedarone
- pimozide
- thioridazine

This medicine may also interact with the following medications:

- antacids that contain aluminum or magnesium
- birth control pills
- colchicine
- cyclosporine
- digoxin
- ergot alkaloids like dihydroergotamine, ergotamine
- nelfinavir
- other medicines that prolong the QT interval (an abnormal heart rhythm)
- phenytoin
- warfarin

This list may not describe all possible interactions. Give your health care provider a list of all the medicines, herbs, non-prescription drugs, or dietary supplements you use. Also tell them if you smoke, drink alcohol, or use illegal drugs. Some items may interact with your medicine.

What side effects may I notice from receiving this medicine?

Side effects that you should report to your doctor or health care professional as soon as possible:

- allergic reactions like skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, or tongue
- bloody or watery diarrhea
- breathing problems
- chest pain
- fast, irregular heartbeat
- muscle weakness
- rash, fever, and swollen lymph nodes
- redness, blistering, peeling, or loosening of the skin, including inside the mouth
- signs and symptoms of liver injury like dark yellow or brown urine; general ill feeling or flu-like symptoms; light-colored stools; loss of appetite; nausea; right upper belly pain; unusually weak or tired; yellowing of the eyes or skin
- white patches or sores in the mouth
- unusually weak or tired

Side effects that usually do not require medical attention (report to your doctor or health care professional if they continue or are bothersome):

- diarrhea
- nausea
- stomach pain
- vomiting

This list may not describe all possible side effects. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I watch for while using this medicine?

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if your symptoms do not start to get better or if they get worse.

This medicine may cause serious skin reactions. They can happen weeks to months after starting the medicine. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you notice fevers or flu-like symptoms with a rash. The rash may be red or purple and then turn into blisters or peeling of the skin. Or, you might notice a red rash with swelling of the face, lips or lymph nodes in your neck or under your arms.

Do not treat diarrhea with over the counter products. Contact your doctor if you have diarrhea that lasts more than 2 days or if it is severe and watery.

Contact your doctor if vomiting and fussiness with feeding occurs in a treated infant.

This medicine can make you more sensitive to the sun. Keep out of the sun. If you cannot avoid being in the sun, wear protective clothing and use sunscreen. Do not use sun lamps or tanning beds/booths.

Where should I keep my medicine?

Keep out of the reach of children.

Store between 5 and 30 degrees C (41 and 86 degrees F) for up to 10 days. Throw away any unused medicine after the expiration date.

NOTE: This sheet is a summary. It may not cover all possible information. If you have questions about this medicine, talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or health care provider.

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