

## Are There Any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to get pregnant or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- Your doctor may ask you to provide a sputum (mucus) sample, to check for bacteria in your lungs before starting on Azithromycin.
- You may be prescribed Azithromycin for a duration of 3 to 6 months before your doctor reviews your condition. If there is an improvement, your doctor may recommend you to continue this medication for a total duration of 6 to 12 months.
- Please inform your doctor if you have symptoms of a chest infection such as fever or wet cough. Although azithromycin is an antibiotic, you may still need to take other medications, including other antibiotic(s), that are prescribed by your doctor. Your doctor will advise you if you need to stop azithromycin while on other medications.

## What Else Can I Do to Help My Condition?



- **Complete your medications.** If you have been prescribed medications, remember to take them unless advised otherwise by your doctor or pharmacist. This includes your preventer inhalers if you have asthma. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concern.



- **Stop Smoking.** Discuss with your doctor or pharmacist for ways to quit smoking if you are currently smoking.

## How Do I Store Azithromycin?

Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture, and direct sunlight.

**Please keep all medications out of reach of children.**  
**If you have more questions about your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse clinician.**

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information

### Azithromycin (For Long-Term Use in Chronic Respiratory Diseases)



## What is Azithromycin?

- Azithromycin is an antibiotic commonly used to treat bacterial infections in the lungs. It also helps to reduce airway inflammation in certain chronic respiratory diseases.
  - Patients with chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and bronchiectasis may experience frequent exacerbations (also known as flare-ups).
  - A flare-up is the sudden worsening of symptoms, such as coughing, phlegm production, wheezing and breathlessness. It may be triggered by chest infections, weather changes, allergens, or cigarette smoke.
- Azithromycin may be given long-term for patients with frequent flare-ups of their chronic respiratory diseases to help reduce its occurrence and improve respiratory symptoms.

## How is Azithromycin Taken?





- Usually given three times a week
- Take with or after food.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take only the usual dose. Do not double the dosage to make up for the missed dose.

## Can Azithromycin Be Taken With Other Medications?

- Avoid indigestion medication two hours before and after each dose.
- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements, traditional or herbal remedies.

## What are the Important Side Effects of Azithromycin?

- Azithromycin is generally well tolerated and serious side effects are not common. However, it is important that you recognise the side effects of azithromycin and know how to manage them.
- Always inform your doctor if you experience any side effect.

Side Effect	Management
<u>Very Common</u> Stomach cramps, stomach discomfort, diarrhea, wind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the medication after food.</li> <li>• If you have diarrhoea, drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration unless advised otherwise by your doctor.</li> <li>• These symptoms may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine.</li> <li>• Inform your doctor or pharmacist if the symptoms are severe or do not improve.</li> </ul>
<u>Uncommon</u> Abnormal heart rhythm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your doctor may conduct a heart tracing check (electrocardiogram) before and routinely during your treatment.</li> <li>• Inform your doctor if you experience any symptoms of light headedness, dizziness or heart palpitations.</li> </ul>
<u>Uncommon</u> Hearing loss or tinnitus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform your doctor if you experience symptoms such as hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears).</li> </ul>
<u>Rare</u> Liver injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your doctor may order blood tests to check your liver function before and during your treatment.</li> <li>• Inform your doctor if you experience symptoms such as yellowing of the eye whites or skin, darkened urine, light colored stools, stomach pain, loss of appetite or fatigue.</li> </ul>

**If you develop rashes, facial swelling, or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.**