

Azithromycin

Zithromax 500mg tablets, Zithromax 40mg/mL mixture

What does it do?

A macrolide antibiotic used for its anti-inflammatory effects in the lungs.

How is it taken?

Azithromycin is usually taken once per day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week with food.

Your doctor will decide how long you or your child should continue taking azithromycin.

If you forget to give a dose, give the missed dose as soon as you remember, then give the next dose at the time it is normally due. Do not try to make up for missed doses by giving more than one dose at a time. The mixture should be shaken well before being given.

Where do I get it?

May be dispensed at the **RCH pharmacy** department on presentation of a valid RCH prescription written by a doctor at RCH.

How do I store it?

All medicines should be stored out of the reach of children

Tablets should be stored at room temperature (below 25°C) away from humidity

Tablets should be kept in the pack until it is time to take them.

The mixture should be stored at room temperature (below 25°C). The mixture expires 9 days after it is made up.

What side effects may I experience?

All medicines can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious. Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you think you or your child is experiencing any side effects or allergic reactions from this medicine that are troublesome or ongoing, even if the problem is not listed below. Some side effects can occur if you take this medicine with certain other medicines, including over-the-counter or herbal medicines. Always tell your pharmacist about any medicines you or your child are taking.

Some of the side effects that may occur include:

Nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, stomach pain, indigestion, wind, constipation, diarrhoea or loose bowel motions, oral or vaginal thrush, dizziness, headache, tiredness, drowsiness, muscle or joint aches, hearing loss or ringing in the ears, or altered taste and smell.

Stop taking azithromycin and tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

Severe persistent diarrhoea, fast or irregular heart beat, chest pain, symptoms of sunburn which may occur more quickly than normal, severe blistering or peeling of the skin, fainting, yellowing of the eyes or skin, bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, reddish or purplish blotches under the skin, signs of frequent or worrying infections (such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers), blood in the urine or bowel motions, convulsions (fits), severe upper stomach pain.

Stop using this medicine and contact a doctor or emergency department if signs of an allergic reaction occur.

These may include:

An unexplained increase in wheezing, difficulty breathing or swallowing, fainting, swelling of the lips or tongue, severe itchy rash (hives).

The information contained in this leaflet is intended to support not replace discussion with your doctor or health care professionals.

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THIS MEDICINE

For further information, contact The Royal Children's Hospital Drug Information Centre on 03 9345 5208.

The authors of these medicine information handouts have made considerable effort to ensure the information is accurate, up to date and easily understood.

The Royal Children's Hospital accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies, information perceived as misleading, or the success of any treatment regimen detailed in the handouts.