

# AZITHROMYCIN (Zithromax®)



## How does this medication work?

Azithromycin is an antibiotic. It is effective against a bacteria known as Mycobacterium avium complex (MAI or MAC). This bacteria can infect people who have a weakened immune system, as is the case with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Even if they are not sick, some people who have HIV take azithromycin to avoid Mycobacterium avium infection.

Azithromycin is used with antiretroviral medications. Azithromycin and antiretroviral medications do not cure AIDS or kill the virus. There is a permanent risk of transmitting HIV either through sexual or blood contact. It is therefore essential that precautions always be taken (use latex condoms, do not share syringes).



## What if I forget taking a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and then continue with your regular schedule.

However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double up doses.**



## Can I take azythromycin with other medications?

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug.



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## Can I drink alcohol or take drugs if I'm on azithromycin?

Avoid regular alcohol consumption which may damage your liver, especially if you are a hepatitis carrier. Reasonable consumption should not harm your health.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you take alcohol or drugs.



## What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

Azithromycin can be taken during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding is not recommended in women who are HIV-positive.



## How to take this medication?

### Azithromycin

- < \_\_\_\_ 600-mg tablet(s)
- < \_\_\_\_ times per day
- < \_\_\_\_ times per week




Monday \_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_  
Friday \_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_

It is important to take azithromycin regularly, even if you do not feel sick.

Unless there are serious side effects (see section on **side effects**), *never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.*



## What are the side effects of this medication?

 <p>Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain</li> <li>- Dizziness, confusion, loss of concentration</li> <li>- Sensitivity to the sun</li> </ul>
 <p>Contact your doctor <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- - Rash only</li> </ul>
 <p>See your doctor <b>IMMEDIATELY</b></p>	<p><b>Rash WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swelling of the skin, blisters</li> <li>- Difficulty breathing</li> <li>- Fever</li> </ul>

Inform your doctor and pharmacist of any troublesome side effects. They can help you to manage them.

## Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep azithromycin in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.



## General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and care team, so that your health status can be closely monitored, even if you have no symptoms.

