

FACTSHEET: Azithromycin

Azithromycin is an antibiotic used to treat many bacterial infections.

It will kill the bacteria but it will take a week for it to clear from your body.

What is Azithromycin?

Azithromycin is an antibiotic used to treat many bacterial infections, such as respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and skin infections in adults.

How do I take the medication?

The medication can be taken with or without food. Take the medication in one single dose. The medication will continue to kill the bacteria for many days after the last dose is taken.

Are there any side effects?

This medication can cause diarrhea, stomach pain, nausea and vomiting and headache. There are also other side effects that are less common but which can be more serious. If symptoms persist or become severe, inform your doctor or the clinic.

What are the precautions?

Please tell us if you have a known prolonged heart cycle or irregular heart rate, are taking medication known to prolong heart cycle (i.e. class 1A, class III, antipsychotics, antidepressants, fluoroquinolone antibiotics), are pregnant or breastfeeding (Azithromycin can be passed into breast milk), have a history

of liver or kidney problems, have any drug allergies, have myasthenia gravis, or lactose intolerance.

Which drugs should I avoid?

Drugs that may interact with Azithromycin include Warfarin (or other anticoagulants), Cyclosporin, Digoxin, Nelfinavir, and Ergotamine. Tell your doctor before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines including antacids.

What happens after I take the medication?

Do not have unprotected sexual contact (oral, anal or vaginal sex) for 7 days after taking this medication. Treatment should resolve any symptoms in that time. If symptoms persist, come back for test of cure in 3-4 weeks.

What if I have an allergic reaction?

Please seek medical attention immediately if you experience any signs of an allergic reaction including difficulty breathing, chest tightness, facial swelling, rash or hives.

Source: Apo-Azithromycin Z [package insert].
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