

Azo

Azithromycin

Azithromycin is an azalide, a subclass of macrolide antibiotics, active against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms. Azithromycin interferes with ribosome function in susceptible bacteria by inhibiting the translocation of peptides.

INDICATION

Azithromycin is indicated for infections caused by susceptible organisms, such as lower respiratory tract infections including bronchitis and pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infections, otitis media, typhoid fever and upper respiratory tract infections including sinusitis, pharyngitis and tonsillitis.

In sexually transmitted diseases in men and women azithromycin is indicated in the treatment of uncomplicated genital infections due to *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Adult

Azithromycin should be given as 500 mg once daily orally for 3 days or as an alternative, given over 5 days with 500 mg on day 1, then 250 mg on days 2-5.

For sexually transmitted diseases caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* in adults, the dose is 1 gm given as a single dose. Alternatively, 500 mg once daily as on day 1, followed by 250 mg once daily for next 2 days may also be given. In typhoid fever, 500 mg once daily to be given for 7 days.

Children

For children over 6 months recommended dose is 10 mg/kg once daily.

Body weight	Dose	Frequency	Duration
Below 15 kg	10 mg/kg	Once daily	3 days (7 days for typhoid fever)
15-25 kg	200 mg or 5 ml		
26-35 kg	300 mg or 7.5 ml		
36-45 kg	400 mg or 10 ml		

As common with many other antibiotics, Azo should be taken at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after meal and antacid.

SIDE EFFECT

Azithromycin is well tolerated with a low incidence of side effects. The major side effects are:

Gastrointestinal: Nausea, abdominal discomfort, vomiting, flatulence, diarrhoea.

Allergic reactions: Rash and serious hypersensitivity reactions.

Others: Reversible elevation in liver transaminases, transient mild reduction in neutrophil counts.

CONTRAINDICATION

Azithromycin is contraindicated in patients hypersensitive to azithromycin or any other macrolide antibiotics. Co-administration of ergot derivatives and azithromycin is contraindicated. Azithromycin is contraindicated in patients with hepatic diseases. Avoid concomitant administration with astemizole. Precaution should be taken in patients with more severe renal impairment.

PRECAUTION

As with any antibiotic, observation for signs of superinfection with non-susceptible organisms, including fungi, is recommended.

USE IN PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Animal reproduction studies have demonstrated that azithromycin crosses the placenta, but have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus. There are no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Since animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, azithromycin should be used during pregnancy only if adequate alternatives are not available. No data on secretion of azithromycin in breast milk is available. So, azithromycin should only be used in lactating mothers where adequate alternatives are not available.

DRUG INTERACTION

Azithromycin adsorption was reduced in presence of food and antacid. In patients receiving ergot alkaloids azithromycin should be avoided because of the presence of possibility of ergotism resulting from interaction of azithromycin with the cytochrome P-450 system. Macrolides have been known to increase the plasma concentration of digoxin and cyclosporin. There have been no drug interactions between azithromycin and warfarin, theophylline, carbamazepine, methylprednisolone or cimetidine.

PACKAGING

Azo 500 tablet: Box containing 2x3 tablets in alu-alu pack. Each tablet contains azithromycin dihydrate USP equivalent to azithromycin 500 mg.

Azo 15 ml powder for suspension: Each amber glass bottle contains dry powder to produce 15 ml suspension when reconstituted. Each 5 ml suspension contains azithromycin dihydrate USP equivalent to azithromycin 200 mg.

Azo 30 ml powder for suspension: Each amber glass bottle contains dry powder to produce 30 ml suspension when reconstituted. Each 5 ml suspension contains azithromycin dihydrate USP equivalent to azithromycin 200 mg.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTION

Keep in a dry place away from light and heat.