

**PATIENT SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT  
Azithromycin  
(azithromycin for oral suspension)**

*Cherry-flavored suspension*

**This summary contains important information about azithromycin .** It is not meant to take the place of your child's doctor's instructions. Read this information carefully before you give azithromycin to your child. Ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about azithromycin.

▶ **What Is azithromycin?**

Azithromycin is an antibiotic medicine that is taken only once a day to treat the following types of infections in children: ear infections, pneumonia, and throat infections.

▶ **Can Antibiotics Cure a Cold or Flu?**

No. Antibiotics work only on infections caused by bacteria. They do not kill viruses. No antibiotic, including azithromycin, can treat viral infections such as the common cold and the flu.

▶ **What to Tell Your Child's Doctor before You Start Azithromycin**

Only your child's doctor can decide if azithromycin is right for your child. Before you start azithromycin, be sure to tell the doctor if your child:

- is being given any prescription medicines, including those for asthma
- is being given any over-the-counter medicines you can buy without a prescription, including natural/herbal remedies
- has ever had any liver or kidney problems
- has any other medical problems
- is allergic to any medicines
- is allergic to certain antibiotics such as erythromycin
- is allergic to azithromycin or any of the ingredients of azithromycin suspension.  
Your doctor or pharmacist can give you a list of these ingredients.

▶ **Azithromycin and Other Medicines**

Some medicines can affect how well azithromycin works. Check with your child's doctor before giving your child any new medicines.

▶ **What Is the Right Amount of Azithromycin to Give to My Child?**

Azithromycin gets deep into infected tissue where it is released slowly over time so the medicine keeps fighting bacteria for many days after the last dose is taken. This is why azithromycin may be taken for as short a time as one day.

Your child's doctor will decide the total amount of azithromycin to give to your child, depending on your child's weight and on the specific infection your child has. In addition to deciding the total amount of azithromycin to give to your child, the doctor will tell you to give all the medicine to your child in 1 day or to divide it over 3 days or over 5 days.

### **For Ear Infections**

For ear infections, your child's doctor will tell you to give azithromycin to your child in one of the following ways: the total amount as 1 dose on 1 day, or the total amount divided into 1 dose-per-day for 3 days or the total amount divided into 1 dose-per-day for 5 days, with a double dose on the first day. *Whether given all on 1 day, or divided over 3 days or over 5 days, the **total** amount of azithromycin you give to your child should be the same.*

### **For Pneumonia**

For pneumonia, your child's doctor will tell you to give azithromycin to your child by dividing the total amount into 1 dose-per-day for 5 days, with a double dose on the first day.

### **For Throat Infections (“strep throat”)**

For throat infections, your child's doctor will tell you to give azithromycin to your child by dividing the total amount into 1 dose-per-day for 5 days. When you give azithromycin for 5 days for throat infections, you do not need to give a double dose on the first day (as you would with ear infections).

**If you have questions about how to give azithromycin to your child, please ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist.**

#### **► How and When to Give Azithromycin**

Azithromycin may be taken with or without food and may be taken at any time of day.

Shake the bottle well just before you give a dose.

Give azithromycin for the full number of days prescribed by the doctor, even if your child feels better before finishing all the medicine as prescribed.

If you forget to give your child a dose, call the doctor.

#### **► When Can I Expect My Child to Begin Feeling Better?**

Although azithromycin's dosing is short and you may be able to give all the medicine to your child more easily, you should not expect azithromycin to work faster than other antibiotics which are dosed for up to 10 days.

Your child's doctor or nurse can advise you when your child should begin feeling better.

► **Possible Side Effects**

Like all medicines, azithromycin may cause side effects in some children that are usually mild to moderate and go away after the medicine is stopped. The most common ones are diarrhea, abdominal (“tummy”) pain, vomiting and nausea.

As with other antibiotics, if your child develops diarrhea that becomes severe and watery or does not go away, stop taking the medicine and call the doctor or nurse. This could be a sign of a serious medical problem.

Allergic reactions to azithromycin are rare, but these can be very serious if not treated right away by a doctor. If you think your child might be having an allergic reaction to azithromycin, stop the medicine and call the doctor right away. If you cannot reach the doctor, go to the nearest hospital emergency room. Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction may include trouble breathing; swelling of the face, mouth and neck; or severe skin rash or blisters.

Azithromycin may cause other less common side effects besides those listed here. For a list of all the side effects that have been reported, ask the doctor, nurse or pharmacist for the azithromycin Professional Package Insert.

► **What Should I Do If My Child Vomits (Spits Up) the 1-Day Treatment of Azithromycin?**

If your child vomits within 30 minutes after the 1-day treatment for an ear infection, please call your child’s doctor.

► **What to Do for an Overdose**

In case of accidental overdose, call your child’s doctor right away or go to the nearest emergency room.

► **How to Store Azithromycin**

Keep azithromycin out of the reach of children. Azithromycin can be stored at room temperature. You do not have to keep it in the refrigerator. Throw away any medicine that is left over after treatment.



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