

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

AZITHROMYCIN oral

Prescription under medical supervision

Therapeutic action

- Macrolide antibacterial

Indications

- Trachoma, conjunctivitis due to *Chlamydia trachomatis*
- Cervicitis and urethritis due to *Chlamydia trachomatis* (in combination with a treatment for gonorrhoea), donovanosis, chancroid, early syphilis
- Cholera (if the strain is susceptible), typhoid fever, yaws, leptospirosis
- Pertussis, pneumonia due to *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydophila pneumoniae*
- Second-line treatment of shigellosis
- Streptococcal tonsillitis, acute otitis media, in penicillin-allergic patients only

Forms and strengths

- 250 mg and 500 mg capsules or tablets
- 200 mg/5 ml powder for oral suspension, to be reconstituted with filtered water

Dosage and duration

- *Trachoma, cholera, cervicitis and urethritis due to C. trachomatis, chancroid, early syphilis*

Child: 20 mg/kg single dose (max. 1 g)

Adult: 1 g single dose (2 g single dose in early syphilis)

- *Yaws*

Child and adult: 30 mg/kg single dose (max. 2 g)

- *Conjunctivitis due to C. trachomatis*

Child: 20 mg/kg once daily for 3 days (max. 1 g daily)

Adult: 1 g once daily for 3 days

- *Typhoid fever*

Child: 10 to 20 mg/kg once daily for 7 days (max. 1 g daily)

Adult: 1 g once daily for 7 days

– *Donovanosis (granuloma inguinale)*

Adult: 1 g on D1 then 500 mg once daily unti

– *Pertussis, pneumonia due to M. pneumoniae and C. pneumoniae*

Child: 10 mg/kg once daily for 5 days (max. 500 mg daily)

Adult: 500 mg on D1 then 250 mg once daily from D2 to D5

– *Leptospirosis*

Child: 10 mg/kg on D1 (max. 500 mg) then 5 mg/kg once daily on D2 and D3 (max. 250 mg daily)

Adult: 1 g on D1 then 500 mg once daily on D2 and D3

– *Shigellosis*

Child: 12 mg/kg on D1 then 6 mg/kg once daily from D2 to D5

Adult: 500 mg on D1 then 250 mg once daily from D2 to D5

– *Streptococcal tonsillitis, only in penicillin-allergic patients*

Child: 20 mg/kg once daily for 3 days (max. 500 mg daily)

Adult: 500 mg once daily for 3 days



– *Acute otitis media, only in penicillin-allergic patients*

Child: 10 mg/kg once daily for 3 days (max. 500 mg daily)

Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Do not administer to patients with allergy to azithromycin or another macrolide, and to patients with severe hepatic impairment.
- May cause: gastrointestinal disturbances, heart rhythm disorders (QT prolongation), allergic reactions sometimes severe. In the event of allergic reaction, stop treatment immediately.
- Do not administer simultaneously with antacids (aluminium or magnesium hydroxide, etc.). Administer 2 hours apart.
- Avoid combination with drugs that prolong the QT interval (amiodarone, chloroquine, co-artemether, fluconazole, haloperidol, mefloquine, moxifloxacin, ondansetron, pentamidine, quinine, etc.).
- Administer with caution and monitor use in patients taking digoxin (increased digoxin plasma levels).
- Pregnancy and breast-feeding: no contra-indication

Remarks

- Also comes in 250 mg or 500 mg capsules, to be taken one hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
 - Storage: below 25 °C -  - 
- For the oral suspension (powder or reconstituted suspension): follow manufacturer's instructions.*