

AZITHROMYCIN

It is an antibiotic medicine used to treat infections including:

- Chest infections such as pneumonia
- Ear, nose and throat infections such as sinus infections (sinusitis)
- Skin infections
- Lyme disease
- Some sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Preventing chest infections in those deemed clinically appropriate by the Dr

Azithromycin is part of a group of medicines called macrolide antibiotics. It kills the bacteria that cause the infection.

Monitoring

When your medication is prescribed by the GP, you will be required to have regular blood test monitoring, to ensure their optimum safety.

These blood tests are every 6 months and are comprised of a Liver Function Test (LFT).

Serious Side Effects

Serious side effects are rare and happen in less than 1 in 1,000 people.

Call a doctor or call 111 now if:

- you have a faster or irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia)
- the whites of your eyes turn yellow, or your skin turns yellow (this may be less noticeable on brown or black skin), or you have pale poo with dark pee – these can be signs of liver or gallbladder problems
- you get ringing in your ears (tinnitus), temporary hearing loss, or you feel unsteady on your feet (vertigo)
- you have severe pain in your stomach or back – this can be a sign of inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis)
- you have diarrhoea (perhaps with muscle cramps) that contains blood or mucus – if you have severe diarrhoea without blood or mucus for more than 4 days you should also speak to a doctor

Call 999 now if you have chest pain – this could be a sign of a heart attack.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Azithromycin is okay to take during pregnancy if you have an infection that needs treatment, however other antibiotics may be more suitable, so talk to your Dr before taking to discuss the risks.

Please speak to your doctor if you are planning a pregnancy or become pregnant whilst taking this medication.

If your doctor or midwife says your baby is healthy, it's OK to take azithromycin while breastfeeding.

Talk to your health visitor, midwife, pharmacist or doctor as soon as possible if:

- your baby is not feeding as well as usual
- your baby has an upset stomach
- your baby has a rash or oral thrush (a fungal infection in their mouth)
- you have any other concerns about your baby