

Ohio Poison Control System

1-800-222-1222

Poisoning Fact Sheet for Public

Azithromycin



Azithromycin (az ith roe MYE sin) is the generic name for Zithromax™. It is an antibiotic used to treat or prevent infections, most commonly associated with the lungs.

Azithromycin could be used for the treatment of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in select cases, due to small clinical research studies that have shown a benefit when used in combination with hydroxychloroquine.

Inappropriate use of azithromycin can lead to unwanted bacterial resistance.

Azithromycin can cause serious harm when taken inappropriately or in large amounts, such as an overdose. If this medication is prescribed to you follow the directions on the prescription label. Do not take this medication if it not prescribed to you.

What symptoms can this medicine cause in overdose?

Mild Symptoms

- Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Dizziness

Severe symptoms

- Symptoms of a dangerous change in heartbeat or heart rhythm like chest pain; dizziness; fast or irregular heartbeat; palpitations; feeling faint or lightheaded, falls; breathing problems
- Severe stomach pain
- Liver and pancreatic damage
- Change in hearing
- Severe allergic reaction. Symptoms can include itching, rash, hives, wheezing, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, swelling of face, mouth, or throat.
- Severe skin reaction. Symptoms include red, swollen, blistering or peeling of skin.
- *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) associated diarrhea; severe abdominal cramps or pain, watery stools, severe diarrhea, or bloody diarrhea.

What should I do if I think that I, or someone I know, has accidentally ingested or overdosed on medication?

- Stop taking azithromycin
- **Call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.**
- Notify your doctor or pharmacist.
- Do not attempt to induce vomiting and do not ingest substances to counteract the effects of overdose. This can cause serious harm.

Where should I keep my medicine?

Store all medicines out of sight and up high out of the reach of children. Contact poison control, your doctor, or pharmacist to learn how to dispose of unused medicine when you are no longer taking it.