

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

ANTIBIOTICS

Azithromycin
Clarithromycin
Erythromycin

ABOUT your medicine

Azithromycin, Clarithromycin and Erythromycin are used to treat infections.

HOW should I take the medicine?

Erythromycin is best taken with a full glass of water on an empty stomach (1 hour before or 2 hours after meals). If stomach upset occurs, it may be taken with food. For patients taking the enteric-coated tablets, swallow the tablets whole. If you are not sure about which type of capsule or tablet you are taking, check with your pharmacist.

Clarithromycin may be taken with or after food.

Azithromycin should be taken with or after food.

Avoid taking these medicines with antacids as antacids will decrease the effectiveness of the medicine. Take these medicines at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after antacids.

Take the doses at evenly spaced times day and night. Take all of the medicine that has been prescribed for you even if you begin to feel better after a few days. Your symptoms may start to improve before the infection is completely treated.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose. If you have missed several doses, please call your physician to check what you should do.

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Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Common side-effects of these medicines include abdominal pain, cramping, nausea and vomiting. Oral thrush may also occur.

Headache may occur after taking Clarithromycin.

Stop taking this medicine immediately and see a doctor if these symptoms occurs: stomach cramps or pain, abdominal tenderness, diarrhoea (watery, severe, which may be bloody), difficulty in breathing, skin rash or swelling of face, mouth, neck, hands and feet

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.

You must tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing or widespread itchy skin rashes.

Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment.

Check with your doctor if your symptoms do not improve within a few days or if they become worse.

How should I **STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.

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National University Hospital

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074
Tel: (65) 6779 5555 Fax: (65) 6779 5678
Website: www.nuh.com.sg

Company Registration Number. 198500843R

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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