

**AZITHROMYCIN**

<b>Trade Name</b>	Zithromax®
<b>Class</b>	Macrolide Antibiotic
<b>Mechanism of Action</b>	Binds 50S ribosomal subunits and inhibits bacteria RNA-dependent protein synthesis.
<b>Indications</b>	<b>Indication 1:</b> Prophylaxis and treatment of <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> , infections (Whooping cough) <b>Indication 2:</b> Treatment of <i>Ureaplasma</i> infection
<b>Contraindications</b>	Hypersensitivity to azithromycin or other macrolide antibiotics eg erythromycin Use with caution in patients with liver impairment.
<b>Supplied As</b>	200mg/5mL oral liquid 500mg tablets
<b>Dilution</b>	If oral liquid is not available the tablets can be dispersed (do not try to crush) in 10mL water to make a <b>50mg/mL</b> solution
<b>Dosage</b>	<b>Indication 1: Pertussis</b> <b>&lt;6 months age: 10mg/kg</b> Other doses included in case prophylaxis needed for nursery contacts: <b>&gt;6 months age: 10mg/kg on day 1 then 5mg/kg day 2-5</b> <b>Adults: 500mg on day 1 then 250mg day 2-5</b>  <b>Indication 2: Ureaplasma</b> 20 mg/kg
<b>Interval</b>	<b>Indication 1:</b> Once daily for 5 days <b>Indication 2:</b> Once daily for 3 days
<b>Administration</b>	Oral Nasogastric tube - mix with 0.5mL milk + give with a feed, or - mix with 0.5mL sterile water if insufficient milk available and give between feeds
<b>Compatible With</b>	Azithromycin oral liquid can be given with food.
<b>Incompatible With</b>	Do not mix azithromycin oral liquid with other medications.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Liver function tests, full blood count
<b>Stability</b>	Oral Liquid : expiry =10 days following reconstitution

	Tablets: manufacturers expiry
<b>Storage</b>	Store below 30° C
<b>Adverse Reactions</b>	Nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, reflux, rash, agitation, hypotension, arrhythmias, anaemia, thrombocytopenia, interstitial nephritis, elevated hepatic enzymes, cholestatic jaundice, tooth and tongue discolouration
<b>Metabolism</b>	Rapidly absorbed from the GI tract Half life in children ( 4 months – 15 yrs) = 54.5 hours 50% excreted unchanged in bile, 6%in urine
<b>Interactions</b>	Azithromycin has been associated with QT prolongation, caution with other QTc prolonging drugs (domperidone, amiodarone). Caution with drugs that may reduce potassium levels (eg. diuretics, steroids). Antacids may decrease absorption of azithromycin by up to 30% give at different times of the day (at least two hours apart) Azithromycin increases cyclosporin levels careful monitoring of patients taking these drugs concurrently is recommended.
<b>Comments</b>	Maximum of 5 days treatment on an outpatient prescription for pertussis management. Can be waived by special authority (see PHARMAC criteria)  For <i>Pertussis</i> contacts or cases are deemed infectious until they have completed 5 days of azithromycin.
<b>References</b>	1. BNF for Children 2010-2011 2. Neofax 2009 3. Taketomo et al Pediatric Dosage handbook. Lexicomp 2009-2010 4. www.medsafe.govt.nz
<b>Updated By</b>	A Lynn, B Robertshawe July 2012 A Lynn, M Wallenstein, B Robertshawe, A Evison June 2020.