

Azithromycin

for close contacts of Diphtheria



If you need an interpreter
we can book one for you.

What is diphtheria?

Diphtheria (dif-THEER-ee-uh) is an infection caused by bacteria (germs). It usually affects the throat or the skin and can spread to other people. It can make you very sick and may cause problems with swallowing or breathing.

Vaccination is the best protection.

If you live with, care for, or spend a lot of time with someone who has diphtheria, you are a contact.

Watch for symptoms. See your doctor if you notice:

- a sore throat
- fevers
- neck swelling
- a wound or skin sore that looks infected or does not heal.

What is Azithromycin?

Azithromycin (uh-ZITH-roh-MY-sin) is an antibiotic.

We use it to help stop you:

- getting sick from diphtheria
- spreading the infection to others

You may need this medicine if you:

- live in the same household as someone with diphtheria, or
- have shared a bed with them.

What should you tell us before taking this medicine?

Before you take azithromycin, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have had an allergic reaction to azithromycin or other antibiotic
- take any other medicines (including 'over the counter' or herbal products)
- have any health conditions, especially:
 - heart, liver or kidney problems
 - diabetes
 - cystic fibrosis
- are pregnant or are breastfeeding.

How do I take Azithromycin?

Adults

- Take 1 (500mg) tablet daily for 5 days

Children

- Give liquid azithromycin daily for 5 days. We will weigh your child and tell you the right dose.

When to take Azithromycin

- Take your dose at the same time each day
- You can take it with or without food
- Do not take it within 2 hours of medicines for reflux or heartburn.

What are the main side effects of Azithromycin?

Most people do not have serious side effects.

Uncommon, mild side effects include:

- diarrhoea (runny poo)
- nausea
- stomach pain.

Rare side effects include:

- Headache
- Thrush
- Allergic reaction.

Signs of an allergic reaction

Get medical help straight away if you have:

- swelling of the face
- trouble breathing
- a rash.

If you feel unwell at any time, please contact your doctor or go to a clinic.

For more details, you can read the Azithromycin Consumer Medicine Information leaflet.

Where to get more help

You can contact the Centre for Disease Control:
Alice Springs: 8951 7540
Darwin: 8922 8044
Katherine: 8973 9049
Nhulunbuy: 8987 0357
Tennant Creek: 8962 4259

Or speak with your local health care provider.

