

SULFASALAZINE

Dear @Name@,

Your healthcare team has discussed the following subject with you: sulfasalazine. The brand name is Azulfidine. Here is some additional information. Let us know if you have any questions regarding this information.

How it works: This medication belongs to a class of drugs called aminosalicylates, which are also known as 5-ASAs. It helps to reduce the irritation and swelling (inflammation) in the lining of the intestines.

How it is taken: Taken as a pill. If taken as prescribed, these medications can work as quickly as 2 to 4 weeks. This medication should be given in combination with folic acid daily.

Common side effects: Side effects are uncommon with this medication and include headache, nausea, abdominal pain and cramping, loss of appetite, vomiting, rash, fever, or diarrhea. Very rare, but reported are cases of inflammation of the kidney (interstitial nephritis), hair loss, inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), and inflammation of the tissue around the heart (pericarditis).

Special considerations: If you have a sulfa allergy, you should not take this medication. For men, this medication can cause a decrease in sperm production and function. However, sperm count becomes normal once you stop taking the medication. If you are planning to have a child, speak with your healthcare team before taking this medication. It is rare that this medication causes injury to your kidneys. However, those with kidney problems should not use this medication. Your healthcare provider will be monitoring your kidney function annually.

Points to remember: Before taking this medication, let your healthcare team know about other medical conditions that you may have or other medications (even over-the-counter medications or complementary therapies) you may be taking.

Other tips: The best way to control your disease is by taking your medication as directed. Even when you do not have any symptoms, it is very important to continue taking your medication to prevent your disease from becoming active again. Do not alter the amount of the medication or how frequently you take it on your own. If you have unpleasant side effects or you continue to have symptoms, speak to your healthcare team immediately.

For further information, please check out <http://www.ibdmedicationguide.org/> or follow this link:

</sites/default/files/2020-03/aminosalicylates.pdf>