

BALSALAZIDE

Dear @Name@,

Your healthcare team has discussed the following subject with you: balsalazide. Brand names include Colazal and Giazio. 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. If taken as prescribed, these medications can work as quickly as 2 to 4 weeks. The benefit of taking this medication is that it is generally well tolerated and has not been associated with an increased risk for infection or cancer.

How it is taken: This medication is taken as a pill. If taken as prescribed, these medications can work as quickly as 2 to 4 weeks.

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: 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: This is a short acting medication and does require three times a day dosing to be most effective. 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 alternative 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 doctor immediately.

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

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