



Medication Fact Sheet

Generic Name Balsalazide

Trade Name Colazal 750mg capsules

– Not available in generic form

What is balsalazide and what is it used for?

Balsalazide is an anti-inflammatory drug. This drug is activated by the bacteria in the colon and reduces inflammation in the lining of the colon. The active anti-inflammatory agent is the drug, mesalamine. Because the medicine is released in the colon this drug is used to treat pediatric ulcerative colitis and ulcerative proctitis. It may also be used to treat pediatric Crohn's disease.

Is there anything special I need to know when my child is taking balsalazide?

Try to make sure that your child takes this drug at evenly spaced intervals. It may be taken with or without food or milk. This drug should not be taken if there was a previous reaction to this drug or mesalamine (Asacol, Pentasa, Canasa, Rowasa), sulfasalazine (Azulfidine) or salicylates(aspirin). Blood testing may be necessary for monitoring purposes.

What if my child misses a dose?

If your child misses a dose, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular schedule. Do not double up on doses.

Are there any food or beverage interactions to know about?

There are no known interactions between this medication and foods and beverages.

Are there medications that my child cannot take with balsalazide?

There are no known reactions between balsalazide and other drugs.

Is it safe for my child to take balsalazide for long periods of time?

Since this drug was just released in 2001, long-term safety has not been determined. However, other drugs in this ASA category are safe and effective for long-term use.

Are there any side effects with balsalazide?

Adverse reactions can occur with any drug. Minor reactions may go away on their own but if they persist, contact your child's healthcare provider. For major reactions contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.

Minor

- headache
- nausea
- vomiting
- indigestion
- stomach cramps
- muscle aches

Major

- respiratory infection
- fever
- increased blood in stool