



Medication Fact Sheet

Generic Name Mesalamine

Trade Name Asacol 400mg
Pentasa 250mg & 500mg
Lialda 1.2g
Rowasa 500mg
- Suppository and Rectal suspension
Canasa 500mg
- Suppository

What is mesalamine and what is it used for?

Mesalamine is an anti-inflammatory drug, which acts on the lining of the stomach to reduce inflammation. There are four different forms available. Each releases the medication in a different place in the GI tract. Your child's healthcare provider will choose the one that works best for the location of his or her inflammation or disease.

- **Asacol** activates in the small bowel just before the colon is reached
- **Pentasa** is released in the small intestine just past the stomach
- **Rowasa** and **Canasa** are delivered by suppository or enema making them useful in the lower or left side of the colon and rectum

These medications are used to treat pediatric ulcerative colitis and proctitis, pediatric Crohn's disease and lymphocytic and collagenous colitis.

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

The pill or capsule should be taken whole, do not break, crush or chew. For rectal suspension in enema form, it is best to empty the rectum first and instill the suspension at bedtime. The longer your child can retain the enema the better the results. Suppositories should be inserted into the rectum and retained for at least one hour.

If your child has had a previous reaction to aspirin or salicylates they should not take mesalamine.

Empty shells from the medication may appear in your child's stool. If the shells look intact with the medicine still in them, let the doctor know.

Do not give your child these drugs for six weeks if your child receives the Varivax vaccination to prevent chicken pox.

What if my child misses a dose?

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

Are there foods or beverages that my child should avoid when taking mesalamine?

There are no known interactions between this medication and foods and beverages. It may be taken with food or milk.

Are there medications that my child cannot take with mesalamine?

An interaction with sulfasalazine (**Azulfidine**) may occur.

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

Long-term use is generally safe but does require a doctor's supervision and monitoring.

Are there any side effects with mesalamine?

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. If your child experiences any of the major reactions contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.

Minor Side Effects

- headache
- indigestion
- abdominal cramps
- nausea
- bloating
- diarrhea
- dizziness
- rash

Major Side Effects

- severe headache
- fever
- sudden severe stomach pain
- increase in blood in stool

If your child experiences any of the major reactions contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.