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## Medication Fact Sheet

**Generic Name Sulfasalazine**

**Trade Name Azulfidine 500mg tablets**  
– with or without Enteric coating

**What is sulfasalazine?**

It is an anti-inflammatory drug, made up of two drugs bonded together: sulfasalazine and mesalamine. The active anti-inflammatory agent is the mesalamine. It was the first in a group of drugs called 5-aminosalicylates (5-ASA) developed in the 1950's.

**How it works**

Bacteria in the colon break the bond or coating on the tablet and release the mesalamine in the colon where it works to reduce inflammation in the lining. Because of its release in the colon sulfasalazine is primarily use for the treatment of ulcerative colitis and sometimes Crohn's colitis.

**Is there anything my child and I need to know about taking sulfasalazine?**

Things to remember when giving your child this drug

- take each dose with 8 ounces of water
- take each dose at evenly spaced intervals
- dose may be taken with food to reduce stomach irritation
- regular tablet may be crushed but **not** the enteric-coated tablets

Your child should not take this drug if he or she has had a previous reaction to this drug or any sulfonamide medication or aspirin.

Your child should avoid prolonged exposure to the sun and wear sunscreen for protection.

**What do we do if my child misses a dose?**

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

**Are there other medicines that my child cannot take with sulfasalazine?**

Make sure that your child's physician knows if he or she is on any of the following medicines as sulfasalazine may increase or decrease their effectiveness:

- **folic acid**
- **Dilantin** (phenytoin)
- **diuretics** (thiazide)
- **methotrexate** (rheumatrex)
- **Lanoxin** (digoxin)
- **blood thinners** (Coumadin)
- **anti-diabetic agents**
- **birth control pills**

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

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

**Are there any side effects?**

Adverse reactions or side effects can occur with any drug.

Minor reactions may go away on their own but if they continue, contact your doctor. For major reactions contact your doctor immediately.

**Minor**

- nausea
- vomiting
- loss of appetite
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- indigestion
- rash
- orange colored urine

**Major**

- \*sore throat
- \*weakness
- \*fever
- \*bloody urine
- \*joint or muscle pain
- \*severe skin reaction
- \*abnormal bleeding or bruising
- \*yellow coloring of skin or eyes