

Azithromycin

(Zithromax)

Common Drug Name

Azithromycin

Common Brand Names

Zithromax

No generic products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Do not store above 86°F. Once the human-label oral suspension is reconstituted (the powder is mixed with water), store at room temperature (do not refrigerate) and use within 10 days.

Uses

Azithromycin is an antibiotic of the macrolide class, used to treat susceptible bacterial infections in dogs, cats, and rabbits.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Shake oral suspension well before use. It is best to give the suspension on an empty stomach.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

The most common side effects, especially with high doses, are vomiting and diarrhea. May have the potential of causing liver damage, which could result in jaundice (yellowing of the gums, skin, or eyes).

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it or drugs similar to it or other macrolide antibiotics.

Consult your veterinarian if the animal's condition worsens after beginning treatment with azithromycin.

Use with caution in animals with liver disease.

The safety of the medication in pregnant and lactating animals (female animals nursing their young) has not been determined.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with azithromycin.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using azithromycin with vitamins, supplements, cisapride, cyclosporine, and oral antacids, since interactions may occur.

No known food interactions.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see serious vomiting or diarrhea.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.