



SULFASALAZINE Generic Name



Brand Names: Azulfidine, Azulfidine EN-tabs

WHAT IS IT?

Sulfasalazine is a DMARD (Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug) used to treat autoimmune conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ulcerative colitis, and other inflammatory conditions. Sulfasalazine can decrease the pain and swelling of arthritis, and can also decrease damage to joints and long-term loss of function.

The medication is often started at low doses when treating RA to prevent side effects. After the first week, your doctor may slowly increase the dosage. It may take between 1-3 months before you notice improvements in your RA signs and symptoms.

DO's

- Take this medication with food and a full glass of water
- Drink plenty of fluids daily
- Minimize exposure to direct sunlight (wear sunscreen SPF 15 or higher)
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medications (prescription and non-prescription) including: over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, folic acid, warfarin (Coumadin), cyclosporine or digoxin.

DON'Ts

- Do not use if you are breastfeeding, pregnant, or planning to become pregnant
- Do not use if your body is fighting off an infection
- Do not stop taking this medication before talking with your doctor
- Do not use if you are experiencing an allergic reaction to the drug

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Nausea and abdominal discomfort are most common. This medication causes temporary infertility in males, however, fertility returns once the medication is stopped. It may also cause your urine or skin to turn yellowish-orange; it is harmless and will go away once medication is stopped.

DOSING

500 mg taken 2-6 times daily Sulfasalazine is taken orally **2-6 times** daily with food and a full glass of water.

MY DOSE: _____ mg

I will take _____ pills orally, _____ a day.