



Azathioprine

Information for Interstitial Lung Disease Clinic Patients

UHN

What is the name of the medicine my doctor has prescribed?

Generic Name	Brand Name
Azathioprine (az-uh-thahy-uh-preen)	Imuran™

Why is this medication being recommended for me?

Azathioprine is in a class of drugs called “immunosuppressants.”

Azathioprine affects your body’s immune system and reduces the amount of inflammation or active damage in your lungs. Inflammation is the precursor to fibrosis (scarring) in the lungs.

By reducing inflammation, it is hoped that Azathioprine will prevent the formation of lung fibrosis and allow your inflamed lung to return to normal.

What should I remember when taking Azathioprine?

Before taking Azathioprine:

1. Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to Azathioprine or any other medications.
2. Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and non-prescription medications, nutritional supplements, and herbal products you are taking.
3. Tell your doctor if you have any type of infection, or if you have, or have ever had kidney, liver, or pancreas disease.
4. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You should use birth control to be sure you or your partner will not become pregnant while you are taking this medication. Do not breastfeed while you are taking this medication.
5. If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking Azathioprine.

Please visit the UHN Patient Education website for more health information:

www.uhnpatienteducation.ca

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Author: Shane Shapera, MD – Interstitial Lung Disease Program
Created: 08/2011
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University Health Network
Toronto General Hospital Toronto Western Hospital Princess Margaret Hospital



6. You should know that Azathioprine may decrease your ability to fight infection. Stay away from people who are sick, wash your hands often, and look for infection and fever. If you get an infection, please contact your family doctor as soon as possible.

What are the possible side effects of this medicine?

Azathioprine may cause side effects. Some side effects can be serious. Tell your doctor if you have any of these symptoms, if they are severe or do not go away:

- upset stomach, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- mouth sores
- lack of energy
- loss of appetite
- pain in the upper right part of the stomach
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- flu-like symptoms, muscle aches or both
- rash

What monitoring will I need?

Your doctor will order regular lab tests to check your response to Azathioprine and monitor for side effects. You will need to have your blood counts (white blood cells, red blood cells, platelets) and liver enzymes checked regularly.

Who can I call if I have question or concerns about Azathioprine?

Please talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions or concerns about this medication.

This site does not provide medical advice.

These sheets are developed by the UHN Pharmacy Department. They are provided for informational purposes only. These sheets are meant to supplement a discussion with the pharmacist. Please contact a pharmacist or other health care professionals if you have any further questions regarding this medication.