

# Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) basics

**Reduces inflammation.** Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) is used to treat moderate to severe inflammatory bowel conditions. It's also used with other medicines to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



## Tips from pharmacists

- Don't use Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) if you're allergic to sulfa drugs or aspirin.
- Swallow Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) tablets whole, and take after a meal with a full glass of water. It's important to drink at least 6 glasses of water every day while using Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine).
- Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) can turn your urine, sweat, tears, and contact lenses orange, but it's harmless.
- If you have a G6PD deficiency, let your doctor know before you take Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine). This can cause a low red blood cell count, so report any sudden tiredness, rapid breathing, or a rapid heart rate.
- Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) can make you more sensitive to the sun. Make sure to use sunscreen daily.
- Talk with your doctor if you have asthma before you start taking Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine).

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Kidney, liver, or blood problems

You'll need to get complete blood counts done before starting Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine), and every other week during the first three months of treatment. Since kidney damage can occur, you'll also need a urinalysis and an assessment of your kidney function periodically during treatment. If you notice a sore throat, fever, pale or yellow skin, these may be caused by a serious blood problem or liver damage. Let your doctor know if you have any of these symptoms.

### Serious skin reactions

Severe and possibly fatal skin reactions (Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis) can happen while taking Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine), including the first day of use. Get medical help right away if you see sores or blisters on your skin, lips, or inside your mouth. You won't be able to re-start Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) again if you've had this type of reaction.

### Serious allergic reactions

Severe allergic reactions can happen anytime that you're taking Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine). Tell your doctor if you have an allergic reaction to Azulfidine (Sulfasalazine) since your liver, kidney, lungs, heart, and blood can all be affected.