Azathioprine (Imuran)/6-Mercaptopurine

This medication is used to treat CROHN’S DISEASE and ULCERATIVE COLITIS

Included in a drug class called immunosuppressive antimetabolites

Works by reducing inflammation that leads to the symptoms of Crohn’s/ulcerative colitis

DRUG ADMINISTRATION
• Oral tablet
• Take with food to reduce nausea
• Dose and frequency as prescribed by your prescriber
• Store at room temperature

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
• Nausea or vomiting
• Abdominal pain
• Allergy (rash, fever, joint pains)
• Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas)
• Increased risk of infection
• Abnormal blood counts or liver tests
• Rare increased risk of lymphoma
• Rare increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancer

Some of these risks are increased when used in combination with an anti-TNF inhibitor

These rare risks are outweighed by potential complications of untreated inflammatory bowel disease

ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING
Prior to starting this medication, your doctor may order:
• Blood counts and liver tests
• TPMT level (an enzyme involved in drug metabolism)
• Tests for inflammation (blood and/or stool test)
• Stool tests to rule out infection
• Abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy

While on this medication, your doctor may order:
• Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
• Repeat tests for inflammation and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy to assess response to treatment

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION
• This medication can be continued during pregnancy and breastfeeding, but should not be started during pregnancy
• Make sure you are up to date on your vaccinations: annual flu vaccine, Pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (age>50)
• Obtain an annual skin evaluation by your primary care physician or dermatologist
• This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat the disease
• Please contact your provider if you notice any signs or symptoms of infection
• Do not stop or hold this medication without contacting your gastroenterologist

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