

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

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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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