



*More information is available for this medicine in the form of Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). CMIs are available from hospitals, pharmacies and medical practices and from the Therapeutic Goods Administration website ([www.ebs.tga.gov.au](http://www.ebs.tga.gov.au)). The CMI contains important information about your medicine and must be read in conjunction with this leaflet.*

## Azathioprine Immunosuppressant

Medication Name	Examples of Brand Name(s)	Strength(s)
Azathioprine	Imuran, Imazan, Azapin, Thioprine Azasan	25mg tablet 
		50mg tablet 

### What is azathioprine used for?

- Azathioprine is an immunosuppressive agent that prevents graft rejection following organ transplantation.
- Azathioprine is also taken to treat autoimmune diseases, where the immune system fights against the body, such as: rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease.
- Azathioprine is normally taken with other immunosuppressive medications or corticosteroids.

### What does azathioprine do?

- Immunosuppressants reduce the body's immune system to prevent your body from rejecting an organ transplant or bone marrow transplant.

### How should I take azathioprine?

- Azathioprine should be taken ONCE daily at the same time each day.
- Tablets should be taken one hour before or three hours after food or milk.
- Tablets should be swallowed whole with plenty of water. The tablets should not be crushed or chewed.
- If you forget to take your dose, DO NOT take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed. If it is almost time for you to take your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose at your usual time. Otherwise, take your dose as soon as you remember, and continue to take it as you would normally. If unsure, call your doctor or pharmacist.
- Store azathioprine in a cool dry place away from direct heat and light.

**Please turn leaflet over as there may be more information on the other side**

*Make sure that your doctor, pharmacist, dentist and other health professionals know that you are taking this medicine. Please check all medications including herbal and 'over-the-counter' medication(s) with your doctor before taking to avoid unnecessary complications. The information in this leaflet does not replace the advice of your doctor or pharmacist. If you require more information, speak to your healthcare professional. Approved by Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Pharmacy. Information current at July 2019. © Department of Health 2015. For more information contact Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (08) 6457 3333.*

**This document can be made available in larger font or alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

**More information is available for this medicine in the form of Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). CMIs are available from hospitals, pharmacies and medical practices and from the Therapeutic Goods Administration website ([www.ebs.tga.gov.au](http://www.ebs.tga.gov.au)). The CMI contains important information about your medicine and must be read in conjunction with this leaflet.**

## **What are the possible side effects?**

### **Not all side effects are listed – ask your health professional for more information**

- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain – this can occur for the first few months of treatment. These side effects should improve over time.
- This medication can cause your SKIN to be extra sensitive to sunlight. To prevent sunburn use SPF 30+ sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist should you experience any ongoing and unwanted side effects.

## **Important information about azathioprine**

- You will need to have regular blood tests while you are taking this medication.
- If taking azathioprine to treat an autoimmune condition, it may take a few months for the effects of the drugs to start to work.
- Do not stop taking azathioprine without first discussing with your doctor.
- Discuss with the doctor if you are planning a pregnancy or are pregnant.
- **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY, IF YOU:**
  - Develop symptoms of infection (e.g. temperature >38 degrees, sore throat, muscle aches)
  - Develop of mouth ulcers
  - Notice tarry stools, blood in urine, bruising or unusual bleeding
  - Develop a rash
  - Have difficulty breathing
  - Notice yellowing of skin or eyes
  - Notice new moles, changes in moles or development of new lumps
  - Feeling generally unwell
- Avoid contact with anyone suffering contagious illnesses such as: influenza, chicken pox or shingles.
- This medication interacts with many other medications. Check with your Doctor/ Pharmacist/ Nurse prior to taking any new medications, including complementary or herbal.

***Please turn leaflet over as there may be more information on the other side***

***Make sure that your doctor, pharmacist, dentist and other health professionals know that you are taking this medicine. Please check all medications including herbal and 'over-the-counter' medication(s) with your doctor before taking to avoid unnecessary complications. The information in this leaflet does not replace the advice of your doctor or pharmacist. If you require more information, speak to your healthcare professional. Approved by Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Pharmacy. Information current at July 2019. © Department of Health 2015. For more information contact Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (08) 6457 3333.***

***This document can be made available in larger font or alternative formats on request for a person with disability.***