



Azathioprine (Imuran)

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

What do the tablets look like?

Azathioprine is available in two strengths – 25mg and 50mg. The 25mg tablets are usually a pale orange colour; the 50mg tablets are usually a pale yellow colour. The colour may vary depending on which brand your chemist stocks.

Why are you taking Azathioprine?

Azathioprine belongs to the group of medicine known as "disease modifying" or "second line agents" used to treat arthritis and inflammatory disease. It suppresses the disease process by reducing the activity of the immune system.

As it is not a "pain reliever" you will not have benefit straight away. It may take up to three months to notice an improvement in your symptoms. You will need to carry on taking your other medication as well.

How to take Azathioprine

The amount you have to take varies from person to person, but it is usually from 50mg to 150mg daily. This dose can be reduced or increased by your rheumatology team.

It is best to take the tablets with, or just after a meal.

What to do if you miss a dose

Do not double up on your next dose. Just continue taking the tablets as directed, but make a note of it and remember to tell your GP on your next visit.

Can you take other medicines and alcohol with the new treatment?

Azathioprine is compatible with most other medicines. Your doctor needs to know if you are taking allopurinol, as this does interact with azathioprine and may need a change in the dose you take. However, always tell your GP that you are taking azathioprine, before any other medicines are prescribed for you.

If you buy medicines "over the counter" at a pharmacy, also tell the pharmacist that you

Further information

If you need more information, or have any problems or have any queries about your medication, please contact your GP or ring:

Rheumatology Advice Line: 01271 322359

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