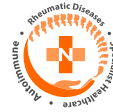


# Azathioprine



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## Azathioprine Use in Rheumatic Conditions

Azathioprine is a medication used to treat rheumatic conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and vasculitis. It is an immunosuppressive medication that helps to reduce inflammation and prevent the immune system from attacking healthy tissue.



Azathioprine can be taken orally, and it is important to follow your doctor's instructions carefully when taking this medication.



## What is Azathioprine?

Azathioprine is a type of medication called an immunosuppressant. It works by suppressing the immune system, which can reduce inflammation and prevent the immune system from attacking healthy tissue. Azathioprine can be used to treat a variety of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and vasculitis.

## Indications or Uses

Azathioprine is primarily used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and vasculitis. It can also be used to treat other autoimmune diseases, such as Crohn's disease and multiple sclerosis. Azathioprine is often used when other treatments have failed, or in combination with other medications to improve treatment effectiveness.



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## How to Take Azathioprine



Azathioprine is taken orally, usually once a day. It is important to take it at the same time each day. You may need to take folic acid supplements while taking azathioprine to reduce the risk of side effects.

Your doctor may adjust your dose of azathioprine based on your response to the medication and any side effects you experience. It may take several weeks to see the full benefits of azathioprine, so it is important to continue taking it as directed by your doctor.

## Side Effects



Like all medications, methotrexate can cause side effects. Some common side effects of methotrexate include:



Headaches



Nausea and vomiting



Fatigue



Diarrhea



Stomach pain



Loss of appetite

Less common but more serious side effects of azathioprine include liver damage, pancreatitis, and infections. It is important to tell your doctor if you experience any side effects while taking azathioprine.

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## Precautions

Azathioprine can increase the risk of infections, so it is important to avoid contact with people who have contagious illnesses. It is also important to tell your doctor if you develop any signs of infection, such as fever or cough.



Because azathioprine suppresses the immune system, it can increase the risk of certain types of cancer, such as lymphoma. It is important to discuss the risks and benefits of taking azathioprine with your doctor.

Azathioprine can also interact with other medications, so it is important to tell your doctor about all medications you are taking, including over-the-counter medications and supplements.

## Conclusion

Azathioprine is a medication used to treat rheumatic conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and vasculitis. It is an immunosuppressive medication that helps to reduce inflammation and prevent the immune system from attacking healthy tissue.

Azathioprine can be taken orally, and it is important to follow your doctor's instructions carefully when taking this medication. Like all medications, azathioprine can cause side effects, and it is important to tell your doctor if you experience any side effects while taking this medication.

