Tell your doctor or pharmacist before taking Azithromycin if:

- you have problems with your heart - including irregular heart beat, sometimes caused by bacteria that are sensitive to macrolides or ketolides
- you have severe heart rhythm problems (shown on an electro-cardiogram (QT prolongation and torsade de pointes)
- you have severe liver or kidney problems
- you have kidney failure, impaired hearing (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) or the concentration of blood cells due to destruction (haemolytic anaemia) of your blood cells due to inflammation inside your gut (colitis)
- you have myasthenia gravis (a disease of muscle weakness)
- you have severe or itchy skin rash, blistering and there is inflammation. This is called myasthenia gravis
- you have signs of severe allergic reaction stop taking Azithromycin and contact your doctor as soon as possible
- you have severe liver or kidney problems
- you have severe heart rhythm problems as your doctor may need to check your blood levels
- you have been told by your doctor that you have a bacterial infection
- you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. There is insufficient information available about the use of Azithromycin during pregnancy. Therefore, use of Azithromycin in pregnancy should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs any possible risk to the unborn child
- you are breastfeeding
- you have known intolerance to any component of Azithromycin dihydrate, erythromycin or any macrolide or ketolide antibiotics
- you are being treated with cisapride - (used to treat stomach flu (colitis)) caused by bacteria that are sensitive to macrolides or ketolides

You should tell your doctor if:

- you have had a stomach flu (colitis) caused by bacteria that are sensitive to macrolides or ketolides
- you have severe liver or kidney problems
- you have severe heart rhythm problems
- you have heart rhythm problems (shown on an electro-cardiogram (QT prolongation and torsade de pointes))
- you have a fungal infection
- you have myasthenia gravis (a disease of muscle weakness)
- you have a bacterial infection
- you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. There is insufficient information available about the use of Azithromycin during pregnancy. Therefore, use of Azithromycin in pregnancy should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs any possible risk to the unborn child
- you are breastfeeding
- you have known intolerance to any component of Azithromycin dihydrate, erythromycin or any macrolide or ketolide antibiotics
- you are being treated with cisapride - (used to treat stomach flu (colitis)) caused by bacteria that are sensitive to macrolides or ketolides

The tablets should be taken as directed by your doctor. The dosage is:

- One dose of 1000 mg, to be taken one time.

For adults and children over 12 years of age:

- The recommended dose: Azithromycin 500 mg given as a single dose once daily for 3 days for sexually transmitted infections
- Azithromycin 500 mg once daily for 5 days for community-acquired pneumonia
- Azithromycin 30 mg/kg once daily for 5 days for community-acquired pneumonia
- Azithromycin 5 mg/kg once daily for 5 days for community-acquired pneumonia

It is important to complete the course of treatment at the right dose even if you feel better. If you stop taking Azithromycin too early you may be more likely to develop infections that are difficult to treat. If you stop taking Azithromycin and you still have symptoms, you may be more likely to develop infections that are difficult to treat.

If you forget to take Azithromycin then:

- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, take the dose you have missed and continue with your normal dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose.

If you take too much Azithromycin:

- If you take an extra dose of Azithromycin, you may experience more side effects. If you are worried you should contact your doctor or go to A&E department at your local hospital.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist. This summary does not include all the possible side effects. It does not include all the information available about this medicine. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for further information.

For all medicines there is insufficient information available about their use in children under 12 years of age. Therefore, use of Azithromycin in children under 12 years of age should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs any possible risk to the child.

This medicinal product does not alter the ability to drive or use equipment requiring mental alertness.

To report any side effect to the European Medicine Agency, please visit: http://www.ema.europa.eu/medicines
to report any side effect to the National Pharmacovigilance Centre, please visit: http://www.ema.europa.eu/medicines

Please read the complete leaflet before you start taking this medicine. There is more information about the use of this medicine in the complete leaflet.
Azithromycin, trade name Zithromax, is a macrolide antibiotic used to treat a variety of infections caused by microorganisms such as Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, and Mycobacteria. It is available in different forms such as tablets, capsules, or injectable solutions. The recommended dose for adults is 500 mg or 1000 mg, usually taken once a day. Azithromycin is effective against infections such as bronchitis, ear or sinus infections, and complications of pneumonia. It is also used to treat chlamydial infections of the urethra and endocervix.

Azithromycin can interact with some other medicines, so it is important to inform your doctor or pharmacist about any other medications you are taking. This includes over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, you should consult your doctor before taking this antibiotic. Azithromycin is not recommended for children under the age of 12 due to the risk of liver toxicity. If you have had liver problems before, you should discuss Azithromycin with your doctor carefully.

Common side effects include diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. However, Azithromycin can also cause more serious reactions such as severe heart problems, sudden heart death, or heart rhythm problems. If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop taking the medicine and call your doctor immediately.

For detailed information, please refer to the full prescribing information provided by the manufacturer. Always take Azithromycin exactly as your doctor prescribes. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular schedule. Do not double up on doses.

Regarding the influence of food on this medicine, it is best to take it with food as it may enhance its absorption. However, it may cause stomach pain if taken with food. Always take Azithromycin with a full glass of water to swallow it easily.

Azithromycin is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to any of its ingredients. You should avoid exposure to the sun while taking Azithromycin to prevent photo-sensitivity.

If you think you have had an allergic reaction to Azithromycin, you should call your doctor or local Poison Control Center immediately. Azithromycin should be kept in its original packaging, out of reach of children, and away from direct light.

In the event of overdose, Azithromycin should be discontinued immediately. However, do not induce vomiting or give activated charcoal. If more than 2 hours have passed since the last dose, you may take your regular medication. If you have any questions about Azithromycin, you should contact your pharmacist or doctor.