

**AZATHIOPRINE
(Imuran®)**

GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAME	REASON FOR USE
Azathioprine Strength: 50 mg tablets	IMURAN®	Azathioprine is an <u>anti-rejection</u> drug. It works to suppress your immune system in order to prevent rejection of your transplanted organ.

SIDE EFFECTS

1. STOMACH UPSET

Upset stomach or vomiting may occur but usually decreases with time. Report this to your transplant team if this becomes problematic. Take with food or milk to help prevent stomach upset.

2. ABDOMINAL PAIN

If you have abdominal pain which is severe or lasts for more than one day you should report this to a doctor or your transplant team. Although uncommon, this may be a sign of a serious problem called pancreatitis, or inflammation of the pancreas.

3. YELLOW COLORATION OF SKIN, DARK URINE

These symptoms are rare but may be a sign of liver damage. Report these symptoms to doctor or your transplant team as soon as possible.

4. DECREASED BLOOD CELL COUNTS

Your blood cell counts will be monitored. Inform your transplant team if you develop symptoms of infection, feel very tired, or experience any unusual bleeding or bruising.

5. BLEEDING AND BRUISING

Try to protect yourself from injury. Notify your transplant team of any unusual bleeding or bruising.

6. INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO INFECTION

Try to avoid close contact with people who have active infections. Report any symptoms of infection such as fever, sore throat, chills, or fast pulse to a doctor or your transplant team *immediately*.

7. INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING CANCER

The risk for developing certain types of cancers is higher. It is important to be aware of and report any changes in your body that could indicate a problem.

AZATHIOPRINE

TAKING YOUR MEDICATION

- Azathioprine is taken once daily
- Take with food or milk to prevent stomach upset
- The dose prescribed may be any combination of 50 mg tablets or half tablets.

Examples: 100 mg = 2 tablets
75 mg = 1½ tablets
125 mg = 2½ tablets

- Changes in dosage may occur. Always check with your transplant team if you are unsure of your current dose.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS

- Azathioprine may interact with other medications and cause serious problems. For example, **allopurinol** is a drug used in the treatment of gout which can cause severe side effects if taken with azathioprine.
- Always speak to your transplant team before taking any new medications, including non-prescription drugs or prescriptions given to you by anyone other than your transplant doctors.

REMEMBER

Wear/carry identification (*i.e.* Medic Alert) stating that you are immunocompromised.

