

PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

BIAXIN[®]

clarithromycin for oral suspension, USP

This leaflet is Part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when BIAXIN[®] was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about BIAXIN[®]. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

BIAXIN[®] is used to treat certain infections caused by bacteria, such as pneumonia, otitis, and infections of the skin and throat (pharyngitis).

It can also be prescribed to combat mycobacterial infections. Mycobacteria are a group of bacteria that cause several diseases.

What it does:

BIAXIN[®] is an antibiotic that kills bacteria in your body.

When it should not be used:

Do not take BIAXIN[®] if you/your child have ever had an allergic reaction to it, or if you/your child are sensitive to it or erythromycin, or other antibacterial agents of the same family or to any ingredient in the formulation (see What the important non-medicinal ingredients are:).

Do not take BIAXIN[®] if you/your child are taking astemizole*, cisapride*, pimozone, terfenadine*, ergotamine, or dihydroergotamine. These medicines can interact, possibly leading to a irregular heartbeat pattern; deaths have occurred.

* no longer marketed in Canada.

What the medicinal ingredient is:

The medicinal ingredient is clarithromycin.

What the important non-medicinal ingredients are:

The non-medicinal ingredients are the following:

carbopol, povidone, polymer, sucrose or sugar, maltodextrin, xanthan gum, silicon dioxide, potassium sorbate, citric acid, artificial and natural fruit flavour, castor oil, and titanium dioxide.

What dosage forms it comes in:

This medicine comes in:

- liquid forms (BIAXIN[®], 125 mg/5mL and 250 mg/5mL).
- extended-release tablets (BIAXIN[®] XL, 500 mg),

- regular tablets (BIAXIN BID[®], 250 mg and 500 mg).

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions

BIAXIN[®] should not be used in pregnancy unless advised by your doctor due to potential hazards to the fetus. Do not take BIAXIN[®] without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

Before taking BIAXIN[®], tell your doctor if you/your child have liver or kidney disease. You may not be able to take clarithromycin, or you/your child may require a lower dose and special monitoring during therapy. Talk to your doctor if BIAXIN[®] gives you/your child prolonged and severe diarrhea.

The development of antibiotic resistance has been seen in patients with HIV receiving clarithromycin. To avoid failure of the treatment with a potential for developing antimicrobial resistance and a risk of failure with subsequent therapy, you/your child should follow closely the prescribed regimen.

BEFORE you/your child use BIAXIN[®] talk to your doctor or pharmacist:

- about all health problems you/your child have now or have had in the past;
- about all other medicines you/your child are taking, including non-prescription medicines, nutritional supplements, or herbal products (see **INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**);
- if you/your have or develop severe diarrhea as this may be a sign of a more serious condition;
- if you/your child have kidney problems;
- if you/your child have liver problems;
- if you/your child are taking astemizole, terfenadine, cisapride, pimozone, ergotamine, dihydroergotamine, digoxin, or colchicine.
- if you/your child have any unusual or allergic reaction (rash, difficulty breathing) to clarithromycin or any of the non-medicinal ingredients in BIAXIN[®] (see What the important non-medicinal ingredients are), other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives;
- if you are pregnant, trying to get pregnant or are breast-feeding because clarithromycin has been detected in human breast milk.

WHILE taking BIAXIN[®], contact your doctor if:

- You develop symptoms of myasthenia gravis or the symptoms of your existing myasthenia gravis worsen. These symptoms could include muscle weakness that gets worse with activity and gets better with rest, drooping eyelid, blurred or double vision, difficulty chewing and swallowing, or trouble breathing.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Drugs that may interact with BIAXIN® includes:

Alfentanil, alprazolam, astemizole/terfenadine, atazanavir, atorvastatin, bromocriptine, carbamazepine, cilostazol, cisapride/pimozide, colchicine, cyclosporine, digoxin, disopyramide/quinidine, efavirenz, ergotamine/dihydroergotamine, fluconazole, hexobarbital, itraconazole, lansoprazole/omeprazole, lovastatin/simvastatin, methylprednisolone, midazolam/triazolam, nevirapine, phenytoin, rifabutin/rifampin, rifapentine*, ritonavir/indinavir, saquinavir, sildenafil, tacrolimus, tadalafil, theophylline, tolterodine, valproic acid, vardenafil, verapamil, vinblastine, warfarin/acenocoumarol, zidovudine and drugs metabolized by cytochrome P450 system.

*not marketed in Canada.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Usual Dose:

BIAXIN® must be taken with food.

The recommended daily dosage of BIAXIN® is 15 mg/kg/day, in divided doses every 12 hours, not to exceed 1000 mg/day. The usual duration of treatment is for 5 to 10 days. Please ask your pharmacist to prepare BIAXIN® in liquid form.

Overdose:

Contact your doctor, pharmacist or local poison control centre if you/your child have taken more than the recommended dose. Symptoms of BIAXIN® overdose are abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea.

Missed Dose:

If you/your child miss a dose of BIAXIN®, take/give to your child the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your/your child's next dose, wait and take/give to your child the next dose at the regular time. Do not take/give to your child double or extra doses.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Like all medicines, BIAXIN® can cause side effects. The majority of side effects observed in clinical trials with BIAXIN® were of a mild and transient nature.

The following adverse reactions were reported during the clinical studies with clarithromycin, the medicinal ingredient (occurring between 1% and 10% in clinical trials) or during post-marketing surveillance: abdominal pain, abnormal taste, diarrhea, ear disorder, flatulence, indigestion, headache, nausea, rash, vomiting. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects persist or become bothersome.

Serious side effects from BIAXIN® are not common.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom/effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Uncommon	Allergic reactions*			✓
	Severe diarrhea		✓	
	Severe abdominal cramps		✓	
	Irregular heart beat			✓

*Allergic reactions, with symptoms such as itching, skin eruptions, rash, sore throat, fever, swelling, skin rash, itchiness, difficulty breathing, lightheadedness/dizziness.

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking BIAXIN®, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Keep BIAXIN® and all other medicines out of reach of children. Store at room temperature (15°- 25°C) in a tightly closed container. Protect from light. Do not use beyond the expiration date.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

To monitor drug safety, Health Canada through the Canada Vigilance Program collects information on serious and unexpected effects of drugs. If you suspect you have had a serious or unexpected reaction to this drug you may notify Canada Vigilance:

By toll-free telephone: 866-234-2345

By toll-free fax: 866-678-6789

Online: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect

By email: CanadaVigilance@hc-sc.gc.ca

By regular mail:

Canada Vigilance National Office

Marketed Health Products Safety and

Effectiveness Information Bureau

Marketed Health Products Directorate

Health Products and Food Branch

Health Canada

Tunney's Pasture, AL 0701C

Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of the side effect, please contact your health care provider before notifying Canada Vigilance. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice

MORE INFORMATION

This document plus the full Product Monograph, prepared for health professionals, can be found at: <http://www.abbott.ca> or by contacting the sponsor, Abbott Laboratories, Limited, Saint-Laurent, Qc H4S 1Z1 at: 1-800-699-9948.

This leaflet was prepared by Abbott Laboratories, Limited.

Last revised: August 31, 2009