

**Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** use only if benefits outweigh fetal risk, may be harmful to fetus, do not breastfeed

**Evaluate:**

- Therapeutic response: absence of pain, fever; C&S negative

**Teach patient/family:**

- To take each oral dose with full glass of water to prevent crystalluria; to drink 8-10 glasses of water/day; to take product on an empty stomach 1 hr before meals, 2 hr after meals, not to treat diarrhea with OTC product, to notify health care professional if diarrhea lasts more than 2 days
- To complete full course of treatment to prevent superinfection
- To avoid sunlight; to use sunscreen to prevent burns
- To avoid OTC medications (aspirin, vit C) unless directed by prescriber
- To notify prescriber if skin rash, sore throat, fever, mouth sores, unusual bruising, bleeding occur; to notify prescriber of CNS effects: anxiety, depression, hallucinations, seizures

### sulfaSALazine (Rx)

(sul-fa-sal'a-zeen)

Azulfidine, Azulfidine EN-tabs, Salazopyrin 

*Func. class.:* GI antiinflammatory, antirheumatic (DMARD)

*Chem. class.:* Sulfonamide

**Do not confuse:**

sulfaSALazine/sulfiSOXAZOLE

**ACTION:** Prodrug to deliver sulfapyridine and 5-aminosalicylic acid to colon; antiinflammatory in connective tissue also

**USES:** Ulcerative colitis; RA; juvenile RA (Azulfidine EN-tabs)

**Unlabeled uses:** Crohn's disease

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Pregnancy at term, children <2 yr; hypersensitivity to sulfonamides or salicylates; intestinal, urinary obstruction; porphyria

**Precautions:** Pregnancy, breastfeeding, impaired renal/hepatic function, severe

allergy, bronchial asthma, megaloblastic anemia

## DOSAGE AND ROUTES

### Ulcerative colitis

- **Adult:** PO 3-4 g/day in divided doses; maintenance 2 g/day in divided doses q6hr

- **Child ≥2 yr:** PO 40-60 mg/kg/day in 4-6 divided doses, then 30 mg/kg/day in 4 doses, max 2 g/day

### Rheumatoid arthritis

- **Adult:** PO 0.5-1 g/day, then increase daily dose by 500 mg/wk to 2 g/day in 2-3 divided doses

### Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis

- **Child ≥6 yr:** PO 30-50 mg/kg/24 hr in 2 divided doses

### Renal dose

- **Modify dose based on renal impairment, response**

### Crohn's disease (unlabeled)

- **Adult:** PO 1 g/15 kg, max 5 g/day

**Available forms:** Tabs 500 mg; oral susp 250 mg/5 mL; del rel tabs 500 mg

### Administer:

- Do not break, crush, chew del rel tabs
- With full glass of water to maintain adequate hydration; increase fluids to 2 L/day to decrease crystallization in kidneys
- Total daily dose in evenly spaced doses and after meals to help minimize GI intolerance
- Store in tight, light-resistant container at room temperature

## SIDE EFFECTS

**CNS:** Headache, neuropathy

**GI:** *Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, stomatitis, hepatitis, glossitis, pancreatitis, diarrhea*

**GU:** Orange-colored urine

**HEMA:** **Leukopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis, hemolytic anemia**

**INTEG:** Rash, dermatitis, urticaria, **Stevens-Johnson syndrome**, erythema, photosensitivity

**SYST:** **Anaphylaxis**

## PHARMACOKINETICS

**PO:** Partially absorbed; peak 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-6 hr; duration 6-12 hr; half-life 6 hr; excreted in urine as sulfaSALazine (15%),

Side effects: *italics* = common; **red** = life-threatening