

[Home](#)

2. Pentasa

Pentasa

Generic name: [mesalamine](#) (oral) [*me-SAL-a-meen*]**Drug class:** [5-aminosalicylates](#)Medically reviewed by [Sophia Entringer, PharmD](#). Last updated on Aug 15, 2023.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is Pentasa?

Pentasa affects a substance in the body that causes inflammation, tissue damage, and diarrhea.

Pentasa is used to treat mild to moderate [ulcerative colitis](#) in adults. Ucerative colitis is associated with inflammation, ulcers and sores in the bowel causing bleeding, stomach pain, and diarrhoea.

Pentasa is also used off-label in the USA as a treatment for [Crohn's disease](#). Use of Pentasa to treat Crohn's disease is officially approved in some other countries.

Warnings

Stop using Pentasa and call your doctor at once if you have severe stomach pain, stomach cramping, bloody [diarrhea](#) (may occur with fever, [headache](#), and [skin rash](#)).

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Pentasa if you are allergic to mesalamine, [aspirin](#), [sulfasalazine](#), or [salicylates](#) (such as Disalcid, Doans Pills, Dolobid, [Kaopectate](#), [Nuprin Backache](#), [Pepto-Bismol](#), Tricosal, Trilisate, and others).

To make sure Pentasa is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- a kidney stone or kidney disease;
- liver disease;
- a blockage in your stomach or intestines (such as pyloric stenosis); or
- a skin condition such as [eczema](#).

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known whether mesalamine will harm an unborn baby. However, having untreated or uncontrolled ulcerative colitis during pregnancy may cause complications such as low birth weight or premature birth. The benefit of treating ulcerative colitis may outweigh any risks to the baby.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk. If you are breastfeeding, tell your doctor if you notice diarrhea in the nursing baby.

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice.

i [Pentasa pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Pentasa?

Take Pentasa exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using mesalamine.

Drink plenty of liquids to help prevent [kidney stones](#).

Pentasa can be taken with or without food.

Swallow the capsule whole and do not chew or crush the contents of the capsule. **Tell your doctor if you have trouble swallowing the capsule.**

If you cannot swallow a Pentasa capsule whole, open it and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of yogurt or applesauce. Swallow all of the mixture immediately without chewing. Do not save it for later use.

Call your doctor if your ulcerative colitis symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using mesalamine.

You may need frequent blood tests to check your blood cells or kidney function.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Ulcerative Colitis -- Active:

250 and 500 mg extended-release capsules: 1 g orally 4 times a day

Duration of therapy: Up to 8 weeks.

Uses: Treatment of mildly to moderately active ulcerative colitis and induction of remission of ulcerative colitis.

i [Detailed Pentasa dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking Pentasa?

If you have a skin condition such as eczema, mesalamine could make you sunburn more easily. Avoid sunlight or tanning beds. Wear protective clothing and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

Pentasa side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Pentasa**: [hives](#); difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using Pentasa and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe stomach pain, stomach cramping, bloody diarrhea;
- fever, headache, general ill feeling;
- rash, itching, [eye redness](#);
- bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- **low white blood cell counts** - fever, chills, mouth sores, skin sores, [sore throat](#), cough, feeling light-headed, trouble breathing;
- **signs of a kidney stone** - severe pain in your side and back, frequent need to urinate, foul-smelling urine, dark or cloudy urine;
- **kidney problems** - increased or decreased urination, swelling, weight gain; or
- **liver problems** - loss of appetite, upper stomach pain, tiredness, easy bruising or bleeding, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Low white blood cell counts may be more likely in older adults.

Common Pentasa side effects may include:

- [burping](#), [constipation](#), [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), stomach pain, diarrhea, gas;
- [dizziness](#);
- [cold symptoms](#) such as stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat;
- [back pain](#);
- headache;
- rash; or
- abnormal liver function tests.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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What other drugs will affect Pentasa?

Mesalamine can harm your kidneys, especially if you also use certain medicines for infections, cancer, [osteoporosis](#), organ transplant rejection, bowel disorders, [high blood pressure](#), or pain or arthritis (including [Advil](#), [Motrin](#), and [Aleve](#)).

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- [azathioprine](#) or 6-[mercaptopurine](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with mesalamine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [Pentasa drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Pentasa interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Pentasa

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Popular FAQ

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| What are 7 mesalamine side effects to be aware of? | ▼ |
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What is the maximum dosage of mesalamine?



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Patient resources

Other brands

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- [Pentasa prescribing information](#)
- [Mesalamine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

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Related treatment guides

- [Crohn's Disease, Maintenance](#)
- [Ulcerative Colitis, Maintenance](#)
- [Ulcerative Colitis, Active](#)
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- [Ulcerative Proctitis](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Pentasa only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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DRUG STATUS

| Availability | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Rx | Prescription only |
| Pregnancy & Lactation | |
|  | Risk data available |
| CSA Schedule* | |
| N/A | Not a controlled drug |
| Approval History | |
|  | Drug history at FDA |

User Reviews & Ratings

7.7 / 10

[89 Reviews](#)

Images

[Pentasa 500 mg \(S429 500 mg Logo\)](#)



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