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2. Azacitidine

Azacitidine

Generic name: azacitidine (oral/injection) [ay-za-SYE-ti-deen]**Brand names:** [Onureg](#), [Vidaza](#)**Dosage forms:** injectable powder for injection (100 mg), oral tablet (200 mg; 300 mg)**Drug class:** [Miscellaneous antineoplastics](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Oct 9, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is azacitidine?

Azacitidine **oral** is used to treat [acute myeloid leukemia](#) in people who are in remission but cannot finish other treatments for this condition.

Azacitidine **injection** is used to treat certain types of bone marrow cancers and blood cell disorders.

Azacitidine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Azacitidine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Azacitidine may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe ongoing nausea, [vomiting](#), or [diarrhea](#);
- redness, swelling, warmth, oozing, or other signs of [skin infection](#);
- **low blood cell counts**--fever, chills, tiredness, mouth sores, skin sores, easy bruising, unusual bleeding, pale skin, cold hands and feet, feeling light-headed or short of breath;
- **signs of a lung infection**--fever, cough with mucus, chest pain, feeling short of breath;
- **kidney problems**--pain in your lower back, blood in your urine, little or no urination, swelling in your feet or ankles;
- **liver problems**--upper stomach pain, [itching](#), loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- **low potassium level**--leg cramps, [constipation](#), irregular heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, increased thirst or urination, numbness or tingling, muscle weakness or limp feeling; or
- **signs of tumor cell breakdown**--tiredness, weakness, muscle cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fast or [slow heart rate](#), tingling in your hands and feet or around your mouth.

Common side effects of azacitidine may include:

- fever, chills, bruising, or other signs of low blood cell counts;
- lung [infection](#);
- [low potassium](#);
- nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, loss of appetite;
- constipation, diarrhea;
- [joint pain](#), pain in your arms or legs;
- feeling weak or tired;
- dizziness; or
- redness where an injection was given.

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.

 [Azacitidine side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

Both men and women using azacitidine should use effective birth control to prevent pregnancy. Azacitidine can harm an unborn baby if the mother or father is using this medicine.

You should not be treated with azacitidine **injection** if you are allergic to [mannitol](#), or if you have advanced [liver cancer](#).

Before taking this medicine

You should not use azacitidine if you are allergic to it.

You should not be treated with azacitidine **injection** if you are allergic to mannitol, or if you have advanced liver [cancer](#).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- kidney disease; or
- [liver disease](#).

Azacitidine can harm an unborn baby **if the mother or the father is using this medicine**.

- **If you are a woman**, you may need to have a negative pregnancy test before starting this treatment. Do not use azacitidine if you are pregnant. Use effective [birth control](#) to prevent pregnancy while you are using this medicine. **If you take Onureg**, keep using birth control for at least 6 months after your last dose.
- **If you are a man**, use effective birth control if your sex partner is able to get pregnant. **If you take Onureg**, keep using birth control for at least 3 months after your last dose.
- Tell your doctor right away if a pregnancy occurs while either the mother or the father is using **Onureg** or using **Vidaza**.

Azacitidine may affect fertility (ability to have children) in both men and women. However, **it is important to use birth control to prevent pregnancy because this medicine can harm an unborn baby**.

You should not breastfeed while using azacitidine. Also do not breastfeed for at least 1 week after your last dose of **Onureg**.

How should I use azacitidine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Azacitidine **oral (Onureg)** is taken by mouth in a 28-day treatment cycle. You may need to take the medicine only during the first 2 weeks of each cycle.

Take **Onureg** at the same time each day, with or without food. Swallow the tablet whole and do not crush, chew, or break it.

Do not use a broken tablet. **The medicine from a broken pill can be dangerous if it gets in your mouth, eyes, or**

nose, or on your skin. If this happens, wash your skin with soap and water or rinse your eyes with water.

If you vomit shortly after taking **Onureg**, do not take another dose. Wait until your next scheduled dose time to take the medicine again.

Azacitidine **injection (Vidaza)** is injected under the skin, or given as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider will give you this injection, usually for 7 days in a row every 4 weeks for at least 4 treatment cycles.

If any **Vidaza** accidentally gets on your skin, wash it thoroughly with soap and warm water.

Your treatment schedule may be different. Your doctor will determine how long to treat you with azacitidine. **Onureg** should not be used in place of **Vidaza**. The oral and injection forms of this medicine have different uses and dosages.

You may also be given medicine to reduce nausea and vomiting. Use this medicine only as prescribed.

Azacitidine can lower blood cells that help your body fight infections and help your blood to clot. **Your blood will need to be tested often.** Your kidney function may also need to be tested. Your cancer treatments may be delayed based on the results.

Store **Onureg** at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Keep the tablets in their original container, along with the packet or canister of moisture-absorbing preservative. Keep the container tightly closed when not in use.

 [Detailed Azacitidine 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.

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss an appointment for your **Vidaza** injection.

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 using azacitidine?

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Tell your doctor at once if you develop signs of infection.

What other drugs will affect azacitidine?

Other drugs may affect azacitidine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

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

Does azacitidine interact with my other drugs?

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

azacitidine

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

- [Azacitidine \(Injection\) advanced reading](#)
- [Azacitidine \(Oral\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)

Other brands

[Vidaza](#), [Onureg](#)

Professional resources

- [Azacitidine monograph](#)
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Other brands

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Related treatment guides

- [Acute Myeloid Leukemia](#)
- [Myelodysplastic Syndrome](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication 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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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

5.9 / 10

[19 Reviews](#)

Images

[Onureg \(azacitidine\) 300 mg \(ONU 300\)](#)



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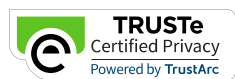
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