

[Home](#)

2. Zafirlukast

Zafirlukast

Generic name: zafirlukast [za-FIR-loo-kast]**Brand name:** [Accolate](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet (10 mg; 20 mg)**Drug class:** [Leukotriene modifiers](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on May 31, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is zafirlukast?

Zafirlukast is a leukotriene (loo-koe-TRY-een) inhibitor that is used to prevent asthma attacks in adults and children as young as 5 years old.

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

Zafirlukast side effects

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

Tell your doctor right away if you have signs of blood vessel inflammation: flu-like symptoms, severe sinus pain, a skin rash, numbness or a "pins and needles" feeling in your arms or legs.

Some people using zafirlukast have had new or worsening mental problems. Stop taking zafirlukast and call your doctor right away if you have unusual changes in mood or behavior, such as:

- [agitation](#), aggression, feeling restless or irritable;
- anxiety, [depression](#), confusion, problems with memory or attention;
- stuttering, tremors, uncontrolled muscle movements;
- suicidal thoughts or actions;
- hallucinations, sleep problems, vivid dreams, sleep-walking; or
- compulsive or repetitive behaviors.

Also call your doctor at once if you have:

- worsening or no improvement in your asthma symptoms; or

- **liver problems**--nausea, loss of appetite, stomach pain (upper right side), tiredness, itching, dark urine, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Common side effects of zafirlukast may include:

- nausea, [diarrhea](#), stomach pain;
- [headache](#); or
- [cold symptoms](#) such as stuffy nose, sneezing, [sore throat](#).

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.

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

Related/similar drugs

Xolair

Xolair injection (omalizumab) is used to reduce the risk of severe food allergy reactions ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[229 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Symbicort

Symbicort (budesonide and formoterol) is used to prevent bronchospasm in people with asthma or ...

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[226 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Dupixent

Dupixent may be used to treat eczema, eosinophilic or oral-corticosteroid-dependent asthma, chronic ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[499 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Ventolin HFA

Ventolin HFA (albuterol) is used to treat or prevent breathing problems in patients who have asthma ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[18 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Breo Ellipta

Breo Ellipta (fluticasone and vilanterol) is used to prevent airflow obstruction or bronchospasm in ...

Reviews & ratings

5.8 / 10

[228 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Spiriva

Spiriva (tiotropium) is used to prevent bronchospasm in people with bronchitis, emphysema, or COPD ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[122 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Xopenex

Xopenex is a short-acting bronchodilator used to treat or prevent bronchospasm in asthma and other ...

Reviews & ratings

9.0 / 10

[15 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Dulera

Dulera Inhalers (formoterol and mometasone) are used to treat asthma. Includes Dulera side effects

...

Reviews & ratings

5.8 / 10

[61 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Tell your doctor right away if you have signs of blood vessel inflammation: flu-like symptoms, severe sinus pain, a skin rash, numbness or a "pins and needles" feeling in your arms or legs.

Stop taking this medicine and call your doctor right away if you have any unusual changes in mood or behavior (such as agitation, confusion, depression, sleep problems, compulsive behaviors, hallucinations, or suicidal thoughts or actions).

Before taking this medicine

You should not use zafirlukast if you are allergic to it, or if you have [liver disease](#) (including [cirrhosis](#)).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had liver disease.

Not approved for use by anyone younger than 5 years old.

The **chewable tablet** may contain phenylalanine and could be harmful if you have [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU).

It is not known if zafirlukast will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

You should not breastfeed while using zafirlukast.

How should I take zafirlukast?

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

Zafirlukast is not a fast-acting rescue medicine for asthma attacks. Seek medical attention if your breathing problems get worse quickly, or if you think your medications are not working.

Take on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.

Your dose needs may change due to surgery, illness, stress, or a recent asthma attack. **Do not change your dose or stop using asthma medication without your doctor's advice.**

Keep using zafirlukast as directed, even if you have no asthma symptoms.

If you take oral steroid medicine, do not stop it suddenly. Ask your doctor about tapering your dose.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

Zafirlukast dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Asthma -- Maintenance:

-20 mg orally twice a day, 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals

Comments:

-A dose of 20 mg twice daily was not associated with an increase in the overall incidence of adverse events or withdrawals in elderly patients.

Use: Prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma

Usual Pediatric Dose for Asthma -- Maintenance:

Less than 5 years: The safety and effectiveness has not been established.

5 to 11 years:

-10 mg orally twice a day, 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals

12 years or older:

-20 mg orally twice a day, 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals

Use: Prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma

 [Detailed Zafirlukast 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 zafirlukast?

Avoid situations or activities that may trigger an asthma attack.

What other drugs will affect zafirlukast?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- [erythromycin](#);
- [fluconazole](#);
- [theophylline](#); or
- [warfarin](#), [Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#).

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

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

Does zafirlukast interact with my other drugs?

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

+

Add

More about zafirlukast

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(5\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: leukotriene modifiers](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Zafirlukast advanced reading](#)

Other brands

[Accolate](#)

Professional resources

- [Zafirlukast monograph](#)
- [Zafirlukast \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Accolate](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Asthma, Maintenance](#)

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](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 12.01.

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

[5 Reviews](#)

Images

[Zafirlukast 10 mg \(V 16\)](#)



Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.