

# Sulfasalazine

[sul-fah-SALA-zeen]  
Salazopyrin®

<http://Rheuminfo.com>  
your rheumatology resource

## How to use this medication

### What is it



Sulfasalazine is a medication used to treat arthritis. While taking this medicine it is important to have your blood tests done and see your doctor on a regular basis.

### Take it twice a day



Take your sulfasalazine in the morning with breakfast and at night before you go to bed.

### Tablets



Sulfasalazine comes in 500 mg tablets. A common dose is 2 tablets in the morning and two tablets at night. Your doctor will tell you the right dose for you.

### Be patient



It will take 6 to 12 weeks for the sulfasalazine to work. It is important for you to keep taking the medicine.

## What you need to do

### Get regular blood tests



Have your blood tested **two weeks after you start the medicine then every month**. This is important to make sure sulfasalazine isn't harming your liver, kidneys or affecting your blood counts.

## Side effects & important facts

### Nausea & feeling unwell



The most common side effect of sulfasalazine is nausea and feeling unwell. This can get better over time as you get used to the medication.

### Skin rash



Sulfasalazine can cause a rash. Stop the medicine and let your doctor know if you develop a rash.

### Headaches



Sulfasalazine can rarely cause headaches.

### Pregnancy & breastfeeding



Sulfasalazine with folic acid 5 mg/day can be used safely in pregnancy and breastfeeding. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

### Sun sensitive



Sulfasalazine can sometimes make the skin more sensitive to the sun. Wear sunscreen.

## When should I call my doctor

### Please call if you need to stop



- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

### Other reasons to call your doctor:



Rash



Pregnant or Planning  
Pregnancy

## Other important information

### Stopping sulfasalazine



You can simply stop taking sulfasalazine. You do not need to wean off it. Please call your doctor if you stop the medication.

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