

AzaSite® can fill the gap created by the erythromycin ophthalmic ointment (0.5%) shortage

Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment was recently placed on the Food and Drug Administration Drug Shortages website list, which was developed to respond to drug shortages that may have a significant impact on public health.¹

The FDA, and now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have asked healthcare professionals to reserve current supplies of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment for prophylaxis of ophthalmia neonatorum and to use alternatives for the treatment of superficial ocular infections involving the conjunctiva and/or cornea caused by organisms susceptible to erythromycin, as well as for treatment of post-surgical and post-traumatic events.^{2,3}

AzaSite® satisfies the need—in pharmacy and at home

- The same macrolide class of antibiotic as erythromycin
- A gel-forming drop that achieves significant concentrations in ocular tissues^{4,5}
- Coverage by 85% of managed care plans nationwide without restrictions⁶

AzaSite® should be refrigerated until dispensed and does not need to be refrigerated at home by patients

For more information on AzaSite®, contact Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at azasite.com or call 1-888-881-4696.

AzaSite® (azithromycin ophthalmic solution) 1% is indicated for the treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis caused by the following organisms: CDC coryneform group G,* *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus mitis* group, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae*.

The recommended dosing regimen for AzaSite® is 1 drop twice a day for 2 days, followed by 1 drop once a day for the next 5 days, for a total of 9 drops per affected eye.

Important Safety Information: AzaSite® has not been approved by the FDA for prophylaxis of ophthalmia neonatorum. No clinical trials have been conducted using AzaSite® in this population. In clinical trials, the most common ocular adverse event was eye irritation, which occurred in 1% to 2% of patients.

*Efficacy for this organism was studied in fewer than 10 infections.

[Please click here to see full Prescribing Information.](#)

References: 1. Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment Shortage [press release]. Available at: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/UCM180747.pdf>. Accessed September 4, 2009. 2. CDC reports shortage of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment. Available at: <http://one.aao.org/SearchResults.aspx?q=erythromycin%20ophthalmic%20ointment%20shortage&t=0&type=0>. Accessed September 4, 2009. 3. CDC Guidance on Shortage of Erythromycin (0.5%) Ophthalmic Ointment-September 2009. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/erythromycinOintmentShortage.htm>. Accessed September 4, 2009. 4. Data on file, Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Study Report ID4U0207. 5. Data on file, Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Study Report 041-103. 6. AzaSite® Managed Markets Access—August 2009.

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Please help enhance compliance by sharing this information with patients

AzaSite® is azithromycin formulated in DuraSite®, a viscous, gel-like delivery vehicle.

Please follow these steps each time you use AzaSite®:



Remove the white tamper-evident cap by turning it in a clockwise direction. Discard the white cap.



Holding the bottle upright, remove the tan cap. This will allow any excess pressure in the bottle to be released. Replace the tan cap on the bottle and close securely.



Turn the closed bottle upside down.



Shake hand firmly before each use to move the contents into the tip of the bottle.



Keeping the bottle upside down, remove the cap.



With the bottle inverted, gently squeeze the bottle to instill 1 drop into each affected eye. Replace the cap and close securely.

Just remember—**Flip, Whip, and Drip.**

Although AzaSite® is located in the pharmacy refrigerator, it should be stored at room temperature once dispensed.

AzaSITE
(azithromycin ophthalmic solution) 1%