

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center

Medication Information Sheet for Mesalamine

Brand Names: Asacol, Pentasa, Colazal

Generic Names: Mesalamine

Drug Class: Gastrointestinal anti-inflammatory/Salicylate

What do these medications do?

They are used to treat and maintain remission in Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. These medications are delivered topically (on the surface) in the intestine due to the controlled release capsule. Asacol is released in the terminal ileum (end of the small intestine) and works throughout the colon (large intestine). Colazal is released in the colon. Pentasa releases in the small intestine and works throughout both the small and large intestine.

Possible Side Effects:

These medications are well tolerated by most people. If you have problems with less serious side effects, please talk with your doctor. Often, these side effects lessen and/or disappear with time or decrease of dosage.

- Diarrhea
- Mild hair loss
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain

Call your doctor *immediately* if you have any of these side effects:

- Skin rash
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Jaundice
- Change in the frequency of urination

Dosage and Administration:

- Medication name _____ Dosage _____
- This medication may be taken with food or on an empty stomach
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember