

# Medication Information Card

## 5-Aminosalicylic Acid

(5 – A – meen – o – sal – ih – sill – ik – ass – id    Ass – id)

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### Other names for this medication

Asacol<sup>®</sup>  
Mesasal<sup>®</sup>  
Pentasa<sup>®</sup>  
Salofalk<sup>®</sup>  
Mesalamine<sup>®</sup>

There are many other names for this medication.

### How this medication is used

This medication is used to treat inflammatory bowel disease such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. It lessens inflammation in the intestines and bowel. This helps reduce diarrhea and abdominal pain.

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. It must be taken regularly, even if you feel well.

Do not stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor first.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

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please turn over →

## How to take this medication (continued)

This medication is damaged by heat and light. Store at room temperature in a cool, dry place to prevent damage.

**Capsule or Tablet:** Swallow whole with a full glass of water. Do not crush, chew or suck. You may see part of a tablet in your stool. If this happens often, tell your doctor.

**Suppository:**

- Wash your hands.
- Take off the wrapper.
- Moisten the suppository with cool water to help it slide in.
- Lie on your side.
- Put the rounded end of the suppository into the rectum as far as it will go.
- Wear a protective undergarment or pad to prevent staining of clothing from the suppository.

### Enema:

Keep the protective wrapping on the enema until just before you use it.

- Wash your hands.
  - Shake well.
  - Remove the cap.
  - Moisten the tip with cool water or vaseline.
  - Lie on your left side.
  - Gently put the tip into the rectum as far as you can.
  - Slowly squeeze the bottle with steady pressure.
  - After all the contents are squeezed out, take the tip out.
  - Remain lying down for 30 more minutes.
  - Try to keep the medication in your bowel for at least a few hours or all night.
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## **While taking this medication you may notice**

- gas
- diarrhea
- constipation
- nausea
- headache

## **Contact your doctor if you notice**

- fever, skin rash, swelling in face or hands, cramps and bloody diarrhea. If these occur shortly after starting this medication, you may be having a reaction. You may be allergic to aspirin and need emergency help right away.
- continued nausea, constipation
- continued abdominal pain