5-ASA or Mesalamine (Oral)

MEZERA®, PENTASA®, SALOFALK®, OCTASA®

CCIBDN
CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK
A CH.I.L.D. Foundation Initiative

Scan for more!

What this medication is used for

Widely used for children with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

Health Canada

Health Canada also approved for adults: Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

How this medication works

5-ASA works locally to reduce inflammation in the intestine.

TThere are a number of 5-ASA medications, which differ based on route of administration and medication coating.

How to use this medication

n general, 5-ASA tablets should be swallowed whole; do not chew, crush, cut or dissolve in liquid.

-The exception is Pentasa which can be sprinkled onto purees or dispersed in water. Talk to your healthcare team for specific directions.

-Some individuals notice improvement quickly, while it may take longer for others. Keep taking your medication during this time and continue to take it as prescribed afterwards, even after feeling well again.

Where treatment is administered

PHARMACY

Fill your prescription at your pharmacy.

How long to use this medication

This medication will be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term.

Monitoring during treatment

Regular blood tests, stool tests, endoscopy and/or other imaging will be done to monitor for response and side-effects to medication.

Side Effects

Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or headaches can occur.

-Inflammation of the pancreas, lungs, liver, kidneys and heart may very rarely occur.

When I should call my doctor

Please call if:

-You want to or have already stopped the medicine.

-If you are concerned about any side effects.

-Worsening IBD symptoms such as blood in the stool, diarrhea and/or abdominal pain

Vaccines

✓ Live vaccines - Safe

✓ Inactivated vaccines - Safe

Copyright 2026 CCIBDN

PLEASE NOTE: This content is for educational purposes only and does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.