

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

### 1. Why am I using ASACOL?

ASACOL contains the active ingredient mesalazine. ASACOL enteric coated tablets are used to treat and prevent further episodes of inflammatory intestinal diseases, such as ulcerative or idiopathic colitis and Crohn's disease. ASACOL suppositories are used to treat and prevent further episodes of mild to moderate ulcerative colitis in the rectum.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using ASACOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 2. What should I know before I use ASACOL?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to mesalazine, aspirin or any other salicylates, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

**Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, use any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use ASACOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 3. What if I am using other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with ASACOL and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in [Section 3. What if I am using other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

### 4. How do I use ASACOL?

- Your doctor will tell you what dose to use each day. Follow the instructions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist.
- Tablets: Swallow whole with a glass of water. Do not chew, crush or break the tablets.
- Suppositories: For rectal use only. Do not swallow. Insert the suppositories deep into the back passage (rectum) after a bowel movement.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use ASACOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 5. What should I know while using ASACOL?

<b>Things you should do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using ASACOL.</li><li>• Keep all of your appointments with your doctor and have all blood tests recommended</li><li>• Drink plenty of water to reduce the chance of getting kidney stones.</li></ul>
<b>Things you should not do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not stop using your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor. If you stop using it suddenly, your condition may worsen.</li><li>• Do not use ASACOL to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to. Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.</li></ul>
<b>Driving or using machines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.</li></ul>
<b>Looking after your medicine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Store below 25°C.</li></ul>

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using ASACOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 6. Are there any side effects?

Less serious common side effects may include: indigestion and mild skin rash.

Serious side effects may include: severe skin rash (blisters, peeling or bruising) with fever or flu-like symptoms; sudden allergic reaction (rash, itching, hives, problems breathing, swollen face, lips, tongue, throat), severe stomach, abdominal, back or chest pain; yellow skin or eyes; pain or burning during urination; strong or recurrent headache, disturbed vision, ringing or buzzing in the ears.

For the full list of side effects and more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using ASACOL. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using ASACOL.**

**Where to find information in this leaflet:**

- [1. Why am I using ASACOL?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use ASACOL?](#)
- [3. What if I am using other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use ASACOL?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using ASACOL?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

## 1. Why am I using ASACOL?

**ASACOL contains the active ingredient mesalazine.**

**ASACOL is an anti-inflammatory medicine used to treat types of inflammatory bowel disease.**

ASACOL enteric coated tablets are used to treat and prevent further episodes of inflammatory intestinal diseases, such as ulcerative or idiopathic colitis and Crohn's disease.

ASACOL suppositories are used to treat and prevent further episodes of mild to moderate ulcerative colitis in the rectum.

Ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are disease of the large bowel (colon) or back passage (rectum), in which the lining of the bowel becomes inflamed (red and swollen).

ASACOL acts locally at the site of inflammation (colon and rectum) to reduce this inflammation.

## 2. What should I know before I use ASACOL?

### Warnings

**Do not use ASACOL if:**

- you are allergic to mesalazine, aspirin or any other salicylates, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.
- you have severe liver or kidney problems.

### Check with your doctor if:

- you have any other medical conditions:
  - asthma or lung problems
  - liver or kidney problems
  - stomach or intestine ulcer
- you have suffered any of the following:
  - a reaction after using the similar medicine sulfasalazine
  - heart problems such as inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) or sac around heart (pericarditis) after using mesalazine
  - a severe skin rash or skin peeling, blistering and/or mouth sores after using mesalazine.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

Your doctor will discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

### Children

Do not give this medicine to children under 2 years of age. The safety and effectiveness of ASACOL in this age group have not been established.

## 3. What if I am using other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

**Some medicines may interfere with ASACOL and affect how it works. These include:**

- medicines affecting the immune system or anticancer drugs (e.g. azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, thioguanine)
- medicines that prevent the formation of blood clots called anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin)
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. medicines containing aspirin, ibuprofen or diclofenac).

**Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are using and if these affect ASACOL.**

## 4. How do I use ASACOL?

### How much to use

#### Enteric coated tablets

- The usual dose for adults:
  - to treat a current episode of ulcerative colitis is 2400 mg to 4800 mg daily in divided doses
  - to prevent an episode of ulcerative colitis is 1200 mg to 2400 mg once daily or in divided doses
  - to prevent an episode of Crohn's ileo-colitis is 2400 mg daily in divided doses
- ASACOL tablets are only recommended for use in children 6 years and older. Your doctor will calculate your child's dose based on the disease phase and your child's weight in kilograms.

#### Suppositories

- The usual dose for adults is 1 to 2 suppositories inserted up to three times daily depending on the disease symptoms (i.e. up to 6 suppositories per day) into the rectum after a bowel movement
- There is limited information for the use of the suppositories in children. Your doctor will decide if the suppositories are suitable for your child.

### How to use it

#### Enteric coated tablets

- Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.
- Do not chew, crush or break the tablets before swallowing them.
- Follow the instructions you are given and use ASACOL for as long as your doctor tells you to. This medicine helps to control your condition, but does not cure it. It is important to keep using your medicine even if you feel well.

#### Suppositories

- The suppositories are for rectal use only. Do not swallow. They should be inserted deep into the back passage (rectum) after a bowel movement.
- Instructions for inserting:
  - Wash your hands
  - Remove the plastic wrapper round the suppository
  - Lie on your side and draw your knees up
  - Insert the suppository as far as possible into the rectum with the pointed end first. The round end then fits closely to the anus and avoids unnecessary irritation.
  - Stretch your legs out and stay lying down for a few minutes.

### When to use it

#### Enteric coated tablets

Take the tablets before food intake.

#### Suppositories

Insert into the rectum after a bowel movement.

For the medicine to work in the best possible way, you should avoid evacuating your bowel for as long as possible after inserting the medicine, preferably for eight hours after administration.

### If you forget to use ASACOL

**If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and use your next dose when you are meant to.**

**Do not use a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.**

### If you use too much ASACOL

If you think that you have used too much ASACOL, you may need urgent medical attention.

#### You should immediately:

- phone the National Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

**You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

## 5. What should I know while using ASACOL?

### Things you should do

- Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked. Your doctor will do tests before you start and from time to time while you are using ASACOL to check that your liver, kidneys, blood and lungs are all right.
- Drink plenty of water to reduce the chance of getting kidney stones. There have been a few reports of kidney stones. Drinking plenty of water may help to prevent this.
- Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using ASACOL.

### Stop using ASACOL and call your doctor straight away if you:

- develop a skin rash where the skin starts to blister or peel, ulcers in mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes
- develop unexplained bruising, bleeding under your skin, purple spots or patches under your skin (see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)).

These are serious skin reactions which need urgent medical attention.

### Other things you should know

- ASACOL may produce red-brown urine discoloration after contact with sodium hypochlorite bleach in the toilet water. This is caused by a chemical reaction between the active ingredient mesalazine and bleach and is harmless.

- There have been a few reports of intact tablets found in the stool in people using ASACOL 400 mg and 800 mg tablets. What appear to be intact tablets may sometimes be the remains of the tablet coating. Tell your doctor if you often observe tablets or tablet shells in your stool.

### Things you should not do

- Do not stop using your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor. If you stop using it suddenly, your condition may worsen.
- Do not use ASACOL to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to
- Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

### Driving or using machines

This medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

### Looking after your medicine

Store below 25°C.

Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

**Keep it where young children cannot reach it.**

### When to discard your medicine

- If your doctor or pharmacist tells you to stop using this medicine
- If the expiry date printed on the pack has passed
- The packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

### Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, use it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

## 6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

### Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<p><b>Digestive system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• indigestion</li> <li>• mild abdominal pain</li> <li>• diarrhoea</li> <li>• feeling or being sick (nausea or vomiting)</li> <li>• wind (flatulence)</li> <li>• worsening ulcerative colitis symptoms</li> </ul> <p><b>General body:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fever</li> <li>• weight loss</li> </ul> <p><b>Lungs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lung problems or infection with fever, chills, shortness of breath, cough and phlegm</li> <li>• pain in chest which is worse when breathing in (pleurisy)</li> </ul> <p><b>Muscles and bones:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• muscle aches and pains</li> <li>• joint pain</li> </ul> <p><b>Nervous system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sensation of tingling, pricking and numbness</li> <li>• headache</li> <li>• dizziness</li> </ul> <p><b>Reproductive system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low sperm count in men (reversible)</li> </ul> <p><b>Skin:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mild skin rash</li> <li>• increased sensitivity of the skin to sun and ultraviolet light (photosensitivity)</li> <li>• hair loss</li> </ul> <p><b>Tests and investigations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes in liver and kidney function</li> <li>• changes in blood test results</li> <li>• increased amylase in the saliva.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</b></p>

## Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p><b>Digestive system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>severe stomach or abdominal cramps or pain with nausea, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea or fever</li> </ul> <p><b>Heart:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>chest pain, sometimes spreading to the neck and shoulders, and sometimes with rash and joint pain</li> </ul> <p><b>Hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sudden signs of allergic reactions such as rash, itching or hives, shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing, or swelling of limbs, face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty swallowing or breathing</li> </ul> <p><b>Kidney:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>severe pain in back, side or stomach, pain or burning during urination, blood in urine, might be symptoms of kidney stones (see also "Things you should do")</li> </ul> <p><b>Liver:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>liver problems with nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, feeling generally unwell, fever, itching, yellowing of the skin and eyes, and dark coloured urine</li> </ul> <p><b>Nervous system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strong or recurrent headache, disturbed vision, or ringing or buzzing in the ears which might be symptoms of increased pressure within your skull (idiopathic intracranial hypertension)</li> </ul> <p><b>Skin:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unexplained bruising (without injury), bleeding under your skin, purple spots or patches under your skin, anaemia (feeling tired, weak and looking pale, especially on lips, nails and inside of eyelids), fever (high temperature), sore throat or unusual bleeding (e.g. nose bleeds)</li> <li>reddish non-elevated, target-like or circular patches on the trunk, often with central blisters, skin peeling, ulcers of mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes, widespread rash, fever and enlarged lymph nodes which may be accompanied by fever and flu-like symptoms</li> </ul>	<p><b>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</b></p>

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

## Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Medsafe online at <https://pophealth.my.site.com/carmreportnz/s/>.

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop using any of your medicines.**

## 7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

### What ASACOL contains

<b>Active ingredient (main ingredient)</b>	Enteric coated tablets contain mesalazine 400 mg or 800 mg. ASACOL 16.67% w/w suppositories contain mesalazine 500 mg.
<b>Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)</b>	<p><b>Enteric coated tablets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lactose monohydrate</li> <li>magnesium stearate (E572)</li> <li>povidone</li> <li>purified talc (E553b)</li> <li>sodium starch glycolate Type A</li> <li>film coating contains: iron oxide red (E172), iron oxide yellow (E172), macrogol 6000, methacrylic acid copolymer and triethyl citrate.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Suppositories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hard fat</li> </ul>
<b>Potential allergens</b>	ASACOL 400 mg and 800 mg tablets contain a small amount of lactose.

**Do not use this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.**

### What ASACOL looks like

#### Enteric coated tablets

ASACOL 400 mg and 800 mg tablets are coated, reddish to brownish oblong tablets with a glossy to matt finish.

The dimensions of the 400 mg tablet are: thickness 7 mm, length 15 mm and width: 6 mm.

The dimensions of the 800 mg tablet are: thickness: 8 mm, length: 17 mm and width: 8 mm.

ASACOL 400 mg tablets are supplied in blister packs of 100 tablets.

ASACOL 800 mg tablets are supplied in blister packs of 90 tablets. Other pack sizes are not currently available.

#### **Suppositories**

ASACOL 16.67% w/w (500 mg) suppositories are a light grey-brown torpedo-shaped suppository.

The suppositories are supplied in foil strips in packs of 20 suppositories.

#### **Who supplies ASACOL**

Chiesi New Zealand Limited  
Bellingham Wallace Ltd  
Suite 1, 470 Parnell Road,  
Parnell, Auckland 1052.

Email: [medinfo.au@chiesi.com](mailto:medinfo.au@chiesi.com)

Website: [www.chiesi.com.au](http://www.chiesi.com.au)

This leaflet was prepared in May 2025.

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