

Azathioprine

(Azathioprine*, Imuran*) POM

- **Client Information Leaflet:** [Azathioprine](#)
- **Formulations**

Oral: 25 mg, 50 mg tablets.

- **Action**

Inhibits purine synthesis, which is necessary for cell proliferation especially of leucocytes and lymphocytes. Although exact mechanism is unknown, it suppresses cell-mediated immunity, alters antibody production and inhibits cell growth.

- **Use**

- Management of immune-mediated diseases such as immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia and immune-mediated polyarthritis.
- Often used in conjunction with corticosteroids.

Routine haematology (including platelets) and biochemistry should be monitored closely: initially every 1–2 weeks; and every 1–2 months when on maintenance therapy. In animals with renal impairment, dosing interval should be extended. Clinical responses can take up to 6 weeks. Alternative immunosuppressants may be preferred if a more rapid response is required.

[More +](#)

- **DOSES**

See Appendix for immunosuppression protocols.

- **Dogs** 2 mg/kg p.o. q24h for a maximum of 2–3 weeks, then 0.5–2 mg/kg p.o. q48h.
- **Cats** Not recommended.