

**Medication: Rifaximin (Zaxine) 550 mg**

**What is Rifaximin:**

Rifaximin is an antibiotic that is used for irritable bowel syndrome (with diarrhea). It is especially useful for bloating.

**Expected Benefit:**

- Usually takes at least 2 weeks to notice a benefit. Most people do not notice a benefit until after they have completed the 2-week treatment

**Watch for possible side effects:**

This list of side effects is important for you to be aware of however, it is also important to remember that not all side effects happen to everyone.

Rifaximin is usually well tolerated. If you have problems with these side effects talk with your doctor or pharmacist:

- Stomach upset
- Swelling of the ankles

**How to use this medication:**

- Take this medication with or without food
- Your doctor may ask you to take probiotics that contain bifidobacterium (bifantis) such as Align™ probiotics AFTER you stop taking rifaximin

**Dosing Schedule:**

- 550 mg 3 times a day for 2 weeks

**Drugs and Foods to Avoid:**

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medication, including non-prescription medication (over-the-counter medication) and herbal products.

Please contact the Complex Chronic Diseases Program if you have further questions about your medications.