

CLOTRIMAZOLE

Other names: Canesten®, Clotrimaderm®

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Clotrimazole is an antifungal agent that works against certain skin infections, mouth infections (thrush), and vaginal infections (yeast infections).

HOW should this drug be taken?

Clotrimazole works when it is in contact with yeast/fungi and when it is applied or taken several times a day. Clotrimazole must be used regularly to be effective.

For infections of the throat or mouth:

Dissolve tablets in the mouth over 15 to 30 minutes. Do not chew or swallow whole.

If you are prescribed a suspension, swish the suspension around in the mouth, and swallow, or spit, as your doctor or pharmacist has instructed.

Your dosage is:

For infections of the skin:

Clean the infected area and the surrounding skin. Thinly apply and gently massage sufficient cream or ointment into the affected area and surrounding skin twice daily. Wash your hands after.

Your dosage is:

For vaginal infections:

If this is the first time you have vaginal itching or discharge, contact your doctor.

Usually, clotrimazole cream, tablets or suppositories are inserted vaginally at bedtime to treat yeast infections.

Fill the supplied applicator with cream, or unwrap the suppository or tablet and put on the applicator. Lie down on your back, with knees up and apart. Insert the applicator into the vagina, and push the plunger to position the drug. Pull out the applicator, and wash it if you are going to reuse it. Wash your hands.

Wear clean cotton underwear during the treatment. You may want to use a sanitary napkin to protect your clothing or bed sheets. You can use clotrimazole treatment during your menstrual period. However, avoid tampons during the treatment.

Your dosage is:

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of clotrimazole, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is time for your next dose, do not double the dose, just carry on with your regular schedule.

What ADVERSE EFFECTS can this drug cause? What should you do about them?

Generally, clotrimazole has few adverse effects. You may notice local **burning, itching** or **redness** where it is applied. When taking clotrimazole by mouth (as a liquid or tablet) you may have some **nausea or vomiting**.

As with all creams and ointments, skin allergies can develop with clotrimazole. Consult a doctor and stop taking this drug if you develop redness (rash) all over your body.

It is important that you keep your doctor appointments so that your progress can be followed.

What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

Clotrimazole vaginal preparations should not be used in the first trimester of pregnancy, unless your doctor believes the benefits outweigh the risks. If you believe you are pregnant, discuss this with your doctor.

Although the symptoms of your infection may improve within one to three days, make sure you continue to take clotrimazole for the full duration prescribed by your doctor. Failure to do so can allow the infection to return. If the infection worsens or persists after the end of your treatment duration, you should see your doctor so that the infection can be reevaluated.

How should this drug be STORED?

Clotrimazole should be stored at room temperature in a cool (15-30°C) dry place, protected from light and well out of the reach of children. Ensure that the drug has not expired by checking the expiry date (“EXP”) shown on the outside of the package.

Do not store in your bathroom or kitchen, as heat and moisture may cause the drug to be less active.

If you have any questions or concerns about this drug or if you are experiencing adverse effects, please

discuss them with your pharmacist, doctor or nurse.

Write questions or concerns down to ensure they are addressed.

The following pharmacist is available to answer questions:

Pharmacist: _____

Telephone: _____

Reference: Product monograph Canesten® (clotrimazole). Toronto, On, Canada: Bayer Inc., 2008. Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, 2003. Reviewed 2009.

Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: www.hivclinic.ca

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MEDICATION

FACT SHEET