

FLUCONAZOLE

Other names: Diflucan®

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Fluconazole is an antifungal drug. It is used to treat fungal infections in the mouth (like thrush), the esophagus, the genital tract (like a yeast infection) and other areas. It can also be used to prevent cryptococcal meningitis (a fungal brain infection) from recurring.

HOW should this drug be taken?

Fluconazole is available in 50, 100 and 150 mg tablets. It is also available as an intravenous solution for injection and as an oral suspension.

The dose of fluconazole will depend on the type of infection that is being treated. It is usually given once daily. The dose may need to be adjusted if you have kidney problems.

Fluconazole can be taken with or without food.

Your dosage is:

50 mg tablet
100 mg tablet
150 mg tablet

____ tablets (____mg) ____ time(s) a day

or

10 mg / mL oral suspension

____ mL (____mg) ____ time(s) a day

Shake well before each use

Take fluconazole for the duration of time it is prescribed. If you stop it earlier, your infection may come back. If the infection worsens or persists, consult your doctor.

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of fluconazole, 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, fluconazole is well tolerated by most people.

You may notice some **stomach upset, nausea or vomiting** while on fluconazole. Some other potential adverse effects are **abdominal pain, diarrhea, and headache**. If these

effects occur, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

Fluconazole can **increase liver enzymes**. This usually does not give any symptoms. Rarely, **hepatitis** (an inflammation of the liver) can occur. Signs of this are yellowing of the eyes and skin, fever, nausea and / or vomiting, dark urine, pale stools, fatigue, and abdominal pain.

Other rare adverse effects that may occur include **rash, lowering of white blood cells** (cells that fight infections), and **lowering of platelets** (needed to help your blood clot). Inform your doctor if you notice any symptoms of fever, chills, bleeding or bruising.

Your doctor will do regular blood tests to verify your liver function as well as your white blood cell and platelet count.

What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

Certain drugs can increase or decrease the effect of fluconazole. Also, fluconazole might influence the effect of other drugs you are taking. Inform your doctor and pharmacist of all prescribed and non-prescribed drugs you are taking. As well, you should inform them of natural products you are taking. If you wish to start a new drug or natural

product, please consult with your pharmacist before doing so.

You should NOT take the following drugs if your doctor has prescribed fluconazole:

- Cisapride (Prepulsid®)
- Terfenadine (Seldane®)

The safety of fluconazole during pregnancy or breastfeeding is not established. Please discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist if this is a concern.

How should this drug be STORED?

Fluconazole 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. The diluted fluconazole oral suspension is stable for 14 days after the date of preparation when it is kept at room temperature (15-30°C). 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: _____

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MEDICATION

FACT SHEET

Reference: Product monograph Diflucan™ (fluconazole). Kirkland, Qc, Canada: Pfizer Canada Inc, 2004. 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