

KETOCONAZOLE

Other names: Nizoral®

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Ketoconazole 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. The drug may also be used to prevent a relapse after treatment of the initial infection.

HOW should this drug be taken?

Ketoconazole is available in 200 mg tablets and a 20 mg/mL oral suspension.

The dose of ketoconazole will depend on the type of infection that is being treated. It is usually given once daily.

Ketoconazole should be taken with a meal. Avoid taking an antacid (Maalox®, Tums®, etc) at the same time, since an acid environment in the stomach is necessary for ketoconazole to be well absorbed. If you need to take antacids, it should be taken at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after the ketoconazole dose is taken.

If you are taking anti-ulcer drugs that can decrease the acidity of the stomach [ranitidine (Zantac®), famotidine (Pepcid®), pantoprazole (Pantoloc™), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Losec®), rabeprazole (Pariet®), esomeprazole (Nexium™)], absorption may be improved by taking ketoconazole with a carbonated cola drink or cranberry juice.

Your dosage is:

200 mg tablet

____ tablet(s) (____ mg) ____ time(s) a day

or

20 mg / mL oral suspension

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

Shake well before each use

Take ketoconazole 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 ketoconazole, 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?

Adverse effects include **nausea, abdominal pain,** and **itching.** Less common side effects include: **headache, dizziness, drowsiness, fever, rash, diarrhea,** or **impotence.** If your **eyes become sensitive to light,** consider wearing tinted or dark glasses. **Breast pain or tenderness** may occur in men. If these effects occur and are bothersome, please call your doctor or pharmacist or discuss them at your next visit.

Ketoconazole 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, dark urine, fever, nausea and / or vomiting, pale stools, fatigue, and abdominal pain. Call your doctor or pharmacist if these symptoms occur.

Other rare adverse effects that may occur include **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 and adrenal gland 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 ketoconazole. Also, ketoconazole 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 ketoconazole:

- Astemizole (Hismanal®)
- Cisapride (Prepulsid®)
- Dofetilide
- Eletriptan
- Ergot alkaloids such as dihydroergotamine, ergometrine (ergonovine), ergotamine and methylergometrine (methylergonovine)
- Levomethadyl
- Lovastatin (Mevacor®)
- Oral Midazolam (Versed®)
- Nisoldipine
- Pimozide (Orap®)
- Quinidine (Biquin Durules®)
- Terfenadine (Seldane®)
- Simvastatin (Zocor®)
- Triazolam (Halcion®)

Women of childbearing potential should take ketoconazole **ONLY** if they are using an effective form of birth control (condom, birth control pill).

Ketoconazole should not be used in pregnant women. Also, breastfeeding is **NOT** recommended while you are taking this drug. Please discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist if this is a concern.

How should this drug be STORED?

Ketoconazole 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 Nizoral® (ketoconazole). North York, On, Canada: Janssen-Ortho Inc, 1998. 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