CANESTEN® Once Daily Bifonazole

Canesten Once Daily Bifonazole Body Topical Cream
– bifonazole 10 mg/g
Canesten Once Daily Bifonazole Athlete’s Foot Topical Cream
– bifonazole 10 mg/g

What is in this Leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole topical creams. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your pharmacy has weighed the risks of you using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole topical cream against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine.
You may need to read it again.

What is CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream used for?

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream is used on the skin to treat and soothe fungal skin conditions such as:

- Athlete’s foot
- Tinea – mycoses of the trunk, hands or skin folds
- Jock itch
- Ringworm
- Yeast infections of the skin

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream is a broad spectrum anti-fungal topical cream. It contains the active ingredient bifonazole 10 mg/g.

Bifonazole belongs to a group of medicines called imidazole antifungals which are used to treat fungal skin infections.
Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about whether this medicine is suitable for you.

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole Body cream and CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole Athlete’s Foot cream are Pharmacy Only Medicines. They are available without a doctor’s prescription, only through your pharmacy.

**Before using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream**

**When you must not use it**

Do not use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream if:

1. you have an allergy to any of the ingredients of CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream listed at the end of this leaflet.

2. you have a history of allergy to other imidazole antifungal agents (clotrimazole, miconazole, econazole) you should be cautious about using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream – talk to your doctor or pharmacist before use.

Do not use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream just before having a bath, shower or going swimming.

If you do, you may reduce the effectiveness of CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream.

Do not use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream if the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

If you use this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

If you are not sure whether you should start using this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

**Before you start to use it**

Consult your doctor or pharmacist first if:

1. **You are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant:**
   Your doctor will discuss with you the risks and benefits of using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream while you are pregnant. As a precautionary measure it is preferable not to use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream during the first trimester of pregnancy.

2. **You are breast-feeding:**
   Your doctor will discuss with you the risks and benefits of using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream while you are breastfeeding. Generally, CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream should not be used during breastfeeding, or breastfeeding should be discontinued.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.
**Taking other medicines**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using other creams, ointments or lotions or taking any medicine, including any you have bought without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream may interfere with each other.

These include:

- warfarin (Coumadin®, Marevan®) – a medicine to treat or prevent blood clots

These medicines may be affected by CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream or may affect how well it works.

Your doctor or pharmacist will have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream.

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**How to use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream**

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully. These directions may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions below, or on the pack, ask your doctor pharmacist for help.

It is important to use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. If you use it less often than you should, it may not work as well and your skin problem may not improve.

**How to use it**

Before use the cream, pierce the seal on the tube by inverting the cap over the end of the tube and pressing.

Clean and dry the affected area thoroughly before application. A small amount of CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream should be applied thinly and evenly with gentle rubbing to the affected area(s) once a day. It is preferable to use the cream in the evening, before retiring. A small amount of cream is enough to treat an area about the size of the palm of your hand.

**How long to use it**

Symptoms usually resolve in 2 – 4 weeks. Use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream until symptoms resolve, and then for a further two weeks after symptoms disappear to avoid recurrence of the infection.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**DO NOT TAKE THE CREAM BY MOUTH.**

If you use too much (overdose)
Telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre [0800 POISON (0800 764 766) for advice or go to the nearest Accident and Emergency centre if you think that you or anyone else may have used too much CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream, or may have ingested the product. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need medical attention.

While you are using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream

Things you must do
Tell your doctor if you become pregnant, are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed while using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream.

Things you must not do
Do not use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream in or near the eyes. Do not swallow the cream – it is for external use only.

Do not give CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream to anyone else, even if they have the same symptoms as yours. Do not use CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream to treat other complaints unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you to.

Things to be careful of
CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream may reduce the effectiveness and safety of latex products such as condoms and diaphragms if it comes into contact with them. Therefore you should prevent CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream from coming into contact with these products. If CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream does accidentally come into contact with a condom or diaphragm, replace the condom or diaphragm before using it as contraception.

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole creams are not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

Side Effects
Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well or experience discomfort while you are using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream.

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream helps most people, but a few people may experience unwanted effects.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following list of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:
Skin reactions (such as burning, stinging, itchiness, swelling or redness) can occasionally occur. These side effects will most likely go away once bifonazole cream usage is discontinued.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don’t understand anything on this list.

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**After using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream**

**Storage**

Keep your medicine in the original pack until it is time to use it.

If you take the cream out of its packaging it may not keep well.

Store CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream below 30°C in a cool, dry place.

Do not store in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half meters above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

**Expiry**

The expiry date is marked on the end panel of the carton, and is also printed on the crimp at the end of the cream tube. The date refers to the month and year of expiration e.g. 0814 refers to the eighth month of 2014. The product can be used until the end of this month.

Do not use after the expiry date printed on the pack.

**Disposal**

If your doctor tells you to stop using CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream, or it has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

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**Product Description**

**What it looks like**

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream is a white cream, presented in a screw-cap tube.

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole Athlete’s Foot containing 20 g of cream.

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole Body containing 50 g of cream.

**Ingredients**
CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole cream contains 10 mg/g (1% w/w) of clotrimazole as the active ingredient. It also contains:

- benzyl alcohol
- cetosteryl alcohol
- cetyl palmitate
- octyldodecanol
- Polysorbate 60
- sorbitan stearate
- water

This medicine does not contain colours or fragrances.

Manufacturer

CANESTEN Once Daily Bifonazole creams are marketed by:

Bayer New Zealand Limited
3 Argus Place
North Shore 0627
AUCKLAND
Toll Free: 0800 847 874

www.canesten.co.nz

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