

		Canesten Fluconazole CMI 29 September 2014
	Consumer Medicine Information	

Canesten® Fluconazole Capsule

Fluconazole oral capsule 150 mg

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

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 doctor or pharmacist has weighed the risks of you taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule against the benefits expected for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is used for

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is used to treat a type of fungal infection called vaginal thrush.

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule contains the active ingredient fluconazole, which belongs to a group of medicines called azole antifungals. These medicines work by preventing the growth of the fungi causing your infection.

What is vaginal thrush?

Vaginal thrush is a common name for vaginal candidiasis, an infection caused by a yeast-like fungus called *Candida*. *Candida* is one of many organisms that live in the vagina. Your body's natural balance (immune system) normally keeps *Candida* under control, but when this natural balance is upset, *Candida* can multiply and can cause thrush symptoms.

Common symptoms of vaginal thrush include:

- itching, burning or soreness around the vagina
- cottage cheese-like discharge
- swelling or irritation of the infected area

Things that may help you to avoid thrush in future

- wear cotton briefs, stockings and loose fitting clothing rather than tight synthetic clothing
- wash regularly, but do not wash and dry yourself harshly

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- avoid perfumed soaps, bath additives and vaginal deodorants

Your doctor or pharmacist may have more information on things you can do to avoid thrush in the future.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about why this medicine has been recommended for you.

Your doctor or pharmacist may have recommended it for another reason.

There is no evidence that Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is addictive.

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is a “Pharmacist Only Medicine”. It is available without a doctor’s prescription, but your pharmacist’s advice is required.

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is not recommended for children under 18 years of age except under doctor supervision.

Before you take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule

When you must not take it

Do not take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing fluconazole
- any other azole antifungals related to fluconazole such as miconazole (e.g. Daktarin®), ketoconazole (e.g. Nizoral®), clotrimazole (e.g. Canesten®) or itraconazole (e.g. Sporonox®)
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

Do not take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule if you are taking:

- cisapride (e.g. Prepulsid®) – a medicine used to treat stomach problems.
- astemizole
- pimozone (e.g. Orap®)
- quinidine
- erythromycin (e.g. E-Mycin®)

Combining Canesten Fluconazole Capsule with the above medicines may cause serious side effects such as an abnormal heart rhythm.

Do not take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule if you are pregnant, suspect you may be pregnant or if you may become pregnant during treatment.

It may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.

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Do not take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule if you are breast-feeding.

The active ingredient fluconazole passes into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby may be affected.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack, or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

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

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have, or have had, any of the following medical conditions:

- thrush more than twice in the last six months
- liver problems
- heart problems
- kidney problems
- HIV infection or AIDS
- diabetes

Your doctor or pharmacist may want to take special care if you have any of these conditions.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist before taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule if you are taking warfarin (e.g. Marevan®, Coumadin®), as bleeding or bruising may occur.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are experiencing any of the following:

- abnormal or irregular vaginal bleeding or blood-stained discharge
- foul smelling or unusual coloured discharge
- vulval or vaginal sores, ulcers or blisters
- lower abdominal pain or burning when passing urine
- fever or chills

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, do so before you start taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

Taking other medicines

Do not take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule if you are taking:

- cisapride (e.g. Prepulsid®) – a medicine used to treat stomach problems.
- astemizole
- pimozone (e.g. Orap®)
- quinidine
- erythromycin (e.g. E-Mycin®)

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Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Canesten Fluconazole Capsule may interfere with each other. These include:

- warfarin (e.g. Coumadin[®], Marevan[®]), a medicine used to prevent blood clots
- phenytoin (e.g. Dilantin[®]) or carbamazepine (e.g. Tegretol[®]), medicines used to treat epilepsy or bipolar disorder
- cyclosporin (e.g. Neoral[®]), sirolimus (e.g. Rapamune[®]) or tacrolimus (e.g. Prograf[®]), medicines used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat certain problems with the immune system
- certain medicines used to treat diabetes such as glipizide, glimepiride, gliclazide, pioglitazone, rosiglitazone or glibenclamide
- rifampicin (e.g. Rifadin[®]) or rifabutin (e.g. Mycobutin[®]), antibiotics used to treat infections
- theophylline (e.g. Nuelin[®]), a medicine used to treat asthma
- midazolam (e.g. Hypnovel[®]) and triazolam (e.g. Halcion[®]), medicines used as sedatives or to treat anxiety
- zidovudine (e.g. Retrovir[®]) and saquinavir (e.g. Invirase[®]), medicines used to treat AIDS patients
- hydrochlorothiazide, a medicine used for treating fluid problems and high blood pressure
- the contraceptive pill (birth control pill)
- amphotericin B (e.g. Fungilin[®]) and voriconazole (e.g. Vfend[®]), medicines used to treat fungal infection
- azithromycin (e.g. Zithromax[®]) an antibiotic used to treat certain types of bacterial infections
- anticancer medicines such as cyclophosphamide, vincristine and vinblastine
- NSAIDs such as naproxen, diclofenac and celecoxib
- opioid painkillers such as alfentanil, fentanyl and methadone
- losartan, a medicine used to treat high blood pressure
- calcium channel blockers such as nifedipine, amlodipine and felodipine used in relieving high blood pressure and certain heart conditions
- statins such as atorvastatin, simvastatin and fluvastatin used to control high cholesterol levels
- antidepressants such as amitriptyline and nortriptyline

Talk to your doctor about the need for an additional method of contraception while taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

It may decrease the effectiveness of some birth control pills.

Your doctor can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

These medicines may be affected by Canesten Fluconazole Capsule or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

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How to take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

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

How much to take

For vaginal thrush in adults only a single dose (1 capsule) is needed.

Do not give Canesten Fluconazole Capsule to children under 18 years of age except under doctor supervision.

How to take it

Swallow the capsule whole with a glass of water.

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule can be taken with or without food.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need medical attention.

While you are taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

Use effective contraception to prevent pregnancy while taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

If your symptoms do not improve after three days, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Things you must not do

Do not take Canesten Fluconazole Capsule to treat any other complaints unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you to.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

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Things to be careful of

Tell your doctor immediately if you develop a rash while taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

People with HIV, AIDs or a weak immune system may be more prone to serious side effects of the skin.

Be careful when driving vehicles or operating machinery as occasional dizziness or seizures may occur.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well or experience discomfort while you are taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule.

This medicine helps most people and is generally well tolerated. However, it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

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 possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

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

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- nausea (feeling sick), vomiting
- headache
- stomach pain, indigestion
- diarrhoea

The list above includes the more common side effects of fluconazole. They are usually mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:-

- unusual muscle stiffness causing poor control of movement
- signs of frequent or worrying infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty swallowing or breathing
- asthma, wheezing, shortness of breath
- sudden or severe itching, skin rash, hives
- fainting, seizures or fits
- flaking of the skin
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, reddish or purplish blotches under the skin
- passing more urine than normal, kidney pain (pain on the sides of the body)

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- symptoms of liver disease such as yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine, pale stools, loss of appetite, unusual tiredness
- irregular heart beat or palpitations
- increased sweating

This list above includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

The list above includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

After taking Canesten Fluconazole Capsule

Storage

Keep your capsule in the pack until it is time to take it.

If you take the capsule out of the pack it may not keep well.

Keep your capsule in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store Canesten Fluconazole Capsule in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

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

Disposal

If your doctor or pharmacist tells you to stop taking this medicine or its expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with it.

Product description

What it looks like

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is a hard white gelatin capsule marked with "CAN 150" in black ink.

Each pack contains 1 capsule.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is fluconazole 150 mg. Each capsule also contains the following inactive ingredients:

- lactose
- maize starch

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- colloidal anhydrous silica
- sodium lauryl sulfate
- magnesium stearate
- titanium dioxide (E171)
- gelatin
- Opacode S-1-17823 black printing ink

Distributor

Canesten Fluconazole Capsule is distributed in New Zealand by:

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

www.canesten.co.nz

This leaflet was prepared on 29 September 2014.

Reference: Canesten Fluconazole Capsule Data Sheet dated 27 May 2014.

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