Fluconazole

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it’s used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US
Diflucan

Brand Names: Canada
ACT Fluconazole; APO-Fluconazole; Diflucan; DOM-Fluconazole; Fluconazole Omega; Fluconazole SDZ; MYLAN-Fluconazole; PHL-Fluconazole [DSC]; PMS-Fluconazole; PRO-Fluconazole; RIVA-Fluconazole [DSC]; TARO-Fluconazole; TEVA-Fluconazole

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat fungal infections.
- It is used to prevent fungal infections.
- This drug is used to treat vaginal yeast infections.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

All products:

- If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
If your child is taking any of these drugs: Astemizole, cisapride, erythromycin, olaparib, pimozide, quinidine, terfenadine, or voriconazole.

If your child is pregnant or may be pregnant:

- You will need to talk with your child’s doctor about if this drug is right for your child.

Liquid (suspension):

- If your child has a rare hereditary health problem like glucose-galactose malabsorption, fructose intolerance, or sucrase-isomaltase deficiency.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child’s drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for your child to take this drug with all of his/her drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child’s health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child’s doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until you see how this drug affects your child. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.
- Do not give to your child longer than you have been told. A second infection may happen.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- This drug may affect how much of some other drugs are in the body. If your
child is taking other drugs, talk with the doctor. Your child may need to have blood work checked more closely while taking this drug with other drugs.

- Very bad skin problems like rashes have happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly in people with other bad health problems. Talk with the doctor.

- Very bad liver problems have rarely happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly in people with other bad health problems. Talk with the doctor.

- A very bad and sometimes deadly reaction has happened with this drug. Most of the time, this reaction has signs like fever, rash, or swollen glands with problems in body organs like the liver, kidney, blood, heart, muscles and joints, or lungs. Talk with the doctor.

**If your child is or may be sexually active:**

- If your child is able to get pregnant, talk with your child’s doctor. Your child may need to use birth control to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for some time after her last dose.

**If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:**

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy. If your child is pregnant or gets pregnant while taking this drug, call the doctor right away.

- Tell the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about any risks to the baby.

**What are some side effects that I need to call my child’s doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child’s doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or
swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.

- Signs of a weak adrenal gland like a very bad upset stomach or throwing up, very bad dizziness or passing out, muscle weakness, feeling very tired, mood changes, not hungry, or weight loss.

- A type of abnormal heartbeat (prolonged QT interval) has happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has led to another type of unsafe abnormal heartbeat (torsades de pointes). Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has a fast or abnormal heartbeat, or if your child passes out.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Dizziness.
- Change in taste.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child’s doctor. Call your child’s doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child’s doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

All oral products:

- Give this drug with or without food.
To gain the most benefit, do not miss giving your child doses.

Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child’s doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.

**Liquid (suspension):**

- Shake well before use.

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

**Injection:**

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

**What do I do if my child misses a dose?**

**All oral products:**

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.

- If it is close to the time for your child’s next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child’s normal time.

- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

**Injection:**

- Call your child’s doctor to find out what to do.

**How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

**Tablets:**

- Store at room temperature.

- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

**Liquid (suspension):**

- Store liquid (suspension) at room temperature or in a refrigerator. Do not freeze. Throw away any part not used after 2 weeks.
Injection:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

All products:

- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your child’s symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child’s doctor.
- Do not share your child’s drug with others and do not give anyone else’s drug to your child.
- Keep a list of all your child’s drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child’s doctor.
- Talk with your child’s doctor before giving your child any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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