Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Clotrimazole (Topical

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ 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

3 Day Vaginal [OTC]; Alevazol [OTC]; Antifungal (Clotrimazole) [OTC]; Antifungal Clotrimazole [OTC] [DSC]; Clotrimazole 3 Day [OTC]; Desenex [OTC] [DSC]; GoodSense Athletes Foot [OTC]; Lasolex [OTC]; Micotrin AC [OTC]; Mycozyl AC [OTC]; Pro-Ex Antifungal [OTC]; Shopko Athletes Foot [OTC] [DSC]; TM-Clotrimazole [OTC]; Trimazole [OTC]; Votriza-AL [OTC] [DSC]

Brand Names: Canada

Canesten; Canesten 1 Day; Canesten 3 Day; Canesten 6 Day; Canesten Combi 1 Day; Canesten Combi 3 Day; Canesten External Antifungal; Canesten Extra Strength External Antifungal; Clotrimaderm Topical

What is this drug used for?

All skin products:

- It is used to treat fungal infections of the skin.

Vaginal cream/tablet:

- It is used to treat vaginal infections. If this drug has been given for some other reason, talk with the doctor for more information.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

All products:

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.

All skin products:

- If you have nail or scalp infections. This drug will not work to treat nail or scalp infections.

All vaginal products:

- If you are having a menstrual period.

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

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

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This drug may cause harm if swallowed. If this drug is swallowed, call a doctor or poison control center right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

Vaginal cream/tablet:

- If vaginal yeast infections happen often, talk with the doctor.
- If vaginal yeast infection comes back within 2 months after treating, talk with your doctor.
- Protect clothing and fabrics from staining.
- Do not use this drug if you have belly pain, fever, or bad-smelling vaginal discharge. Talk with your doctor.
- Do not use this drug for itching caused by a health problem other than a vaginal yeast infection. Talk with the doctor.
- Condoms or diaphragms may not work to prevent pregnancy or stop the spread of diseases passed through sex while using this drug and for a period of time after you stop this drug. You will need to use some other kind of birth control for some time after the last dose. Be sure you know how long to do this.
- Do not douche or use other vaginal products like tampons while you are using this drug. You may need to avoid these things for some time after the last dose. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.

What are some side effects that I need to call my 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 doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

All products:

- 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.
- Dizziness or passing out.

- Irritation where this drug was used.
- Blisters or sores that ooze, drain, or crust over.
- Burning.
- Swelling where this drug is used.

Vaginal cream/tablet:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Bad-smelling vaginal discharge.
- Stomach pain.

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 doctor or get medical help if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

All skin products:

- Use as you have been told, even if your signs get better.
- Do not take this drug by mouth. Use on your skin only. Keep out of your mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).

- Wash your hands before and after use. If your hand is the treated area, do not wash your hand after use.
- Clean affected part before use. Make sure to dry well.
- Put a thin layer on the affected skin and rub in gently.
- Do not use coverings (bandages, dressings) unless told to do so by the doctor.

Vaginal cream/tablet:

- Do not take this drug by mouth. For vaginal use only. Keep out of your mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).
- Use as you have been told, even if your signs get better.
- Use at bedtime for best results.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Put into the vagina using the applicator that came with this drug. If the applicator is needed for more than 1 dose, wash the applicator after each use.
- Do not wear tight underwear while using this drug.
- Dry outside vaginal area all the way after showering, bathing, or swimming. Change out of wet bathing suits or damp workout clothes right away.
- Do not have vaginal sex while using this drug.

Vaginal cream:

- If using this cream on the skin outside the vagina, squeeze a small amount of the cream onto your fingertip. Apply to the skin outside the vagina.

Vaginal tablet:

- If the tablet does not fully dissolve by morning or if you find crumbled bits of the tablet in your underwear, talk with your doctor.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Use a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not use 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

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

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep lid tightly closed.
- 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 symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your 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.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

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

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