



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Posaconazole

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**

Noxafil

### **Brand Names: Canada**

Posanol

### **What is this drug used for?**

#### **All oral products:**

- It is used to treat fungal infections.
- It is used to prevent fungal infections.

#### **Injection:**

- This drug is not approved for use in children. However, the doctor may decide the benefits of taking this drug outweigh the risks. If your child has been given this drug, ask the doctor for information about the benefits and risks. Talk with the doctor if you have questions about giving this drug to your child.

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

### All oral 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 has kidney disease.
- If your child has any of these health problems: Low calcium, magnesium, or potassium levels.
- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Atorvastatin, dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, lovastatin, methylergonovine, phenytoin, pimozide, quinidine, rifabutin, simvastatin, or sirolimus.

### If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby or plans to breast-feed a baby.

### Liquid (suspension):

- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Cimetidine or esomeprazole.

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?**

#### **All oral products:**

- 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 blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Do not give to your child longer than you have been told. A second infection may happen.
- This drug interacts with many other drugs. The chance of side effects may be raised or how well this drug works may be lowered. Check with your child's doctor and pharmacist to make sure that it is safe for your child to take this drug with all of your child's other drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins).
- If your child is taking vinblastine, vincristine, or vinorelbine,

talk with your child's doctor. Very bad nerve problems like seizures; burning, numbness, and tingling; and a type of bowel block have happened when this drug was used with vincristine.

- If your child is throwing up or has diarrhea, this drug may not work as well. Talk with your child's doctor.

### **If your child is pregnant:**

- 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.

### **Liquid (suspension):**

- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch his/her blood sugar closely.

### **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:

### **All oral 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.

- Signs of electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, seizures, not hungry, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Shortness of breath.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Fever or chills.
- Sore throat.
- Nosebleed.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Vaginal bleeding that is not normal.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- 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.
- Very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems have happened with this drug. Call your child's doctor right away

if your child has 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.

### **Liquid (suspension):**

- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, more thirst, more hungry, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.

### **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:

### **All oral products:**

- Headache.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Constipation.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Cough.
- Not hungry.

### **Liquid (suspension):**

- Dizziness.

- Joint pain.
- Back pain.
- Trouble sleeping.

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.

### **Liquid (suspension):**

- Give this drug with a full meal.
- If your child is not able to eat a full meal, give this drug with a liquid nutrition supplement or an acidic carbonated drink like ginger ale. If your child is not able to drink these drinks, talk with your child's doctor.
- Shake well before use.
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug.
- 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.

### **Delayed-release tablets:**

- Give this drug with food.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, break, or crush.
- If your child has trouble swallowing, talk with the doctor.
- Tell the doctor if your child cannot take this drug with food.
- 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.

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

### **Liquid (suspension):**

- 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.

### **Delayed-release tablets:**

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is less than 12 hours until 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.

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

### **All oral products:**

- Store at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- 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.

### **Liquid (suspension):**

- Do not freeze.

### **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

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 information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

## **Last Reviewed Date**

2019-06-14

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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Posaconazole - Generated on July 20, 2019

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