

ANTI-FUNGAL MEDICATIONS



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE



ABOUT your medicine

Anti-fungal medicines are a group of anti-infectives used to treat fungal infection of the skin, nails, mouth, throat and vagina. They are available as tablets, topical creams or lotions and pessaries.

Examples of antifungal drugs in this class include Clotrimazole, Isoconazole, Miconazole, Griseofulvin, Fluconazole, Terbinafine and Amorolfine.

HOW should I take/use the medicine?

Oral Tablets/Capsules:

- Take with or after food.
- Complete the course that has been prescribed for you, even if you begin to feel better. You may need to continue taking this medicine for several weeks after your skin seems healed. Incomplete treatment can lead to recurrence of the infection or cause the development of resistance to treatment.

Creams:

- Apply to clean dry skin once or twice daily as directed by your physician.

Vaginal Pessary:

Insert into the vagina at night, just before bedtime.

- Empty your bladder.
- Remove the wrapping and wet the pessary with water.
- Relax while lying on your back with your knees bent.
- Hold the pessary in one hand. Insert it slowly into the vagina using a finger. Do not insert the pessary deeper than is comfortable.
- Withdraw your finger. The pessary will remain in the vagina.

Do not miss any doses. Do not stop using the pessaries even if your menstrual period starts during the time of treatment.

*Keep all medication out of reach of children
Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required*

What should I do if I FORGET a dose?

Take/use the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take/use only your next scheduled dose. Do not double your dose to make up for a missed dose.

What are the possible SIDE-EFFECTS of the medicine?

These symptoms may occur. Consult your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe and do not go away.

- Nausea, vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Diarrhoea

Stop taking medication and seek emergency medical attention if you experience the following:

- Rashes
- Swollen eyes
- Difficulty in breathing

The following symptoms may occur with Griseofulvin. Avoid unnecessary exposure to sunlight or apply sunblock. Your headache, if any, will go away with continued treatment.

- Sensitivity of skin to strong sunlight
- Headache

Side-effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side-effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What PRECAUTIONS should I take?

Before taking your medicine, inform your doctor if:

- You are allergic to anti-fungals or any other medicines.
- You are pregnant or breast-feeding.
- You are taking any other medications or herbal products.

When treating vaginal infection:

You may need to wear a sanitary napkin to prevent the medicine from staining your undergarments. Good hygiene can help to prevent recurrence. Keep the area clean and dry. Always wear freshly washed undergarments. Your partner may need treatment if he is also infected.

How should I STORE my medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.