

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Itraconazole



Itraconazole

- Itraconazole is an antifungal medication that is used to treat infections caused by fungi. These organisms can infect the skin, scalp, fingernails, toenails, mouth, intestinal tract, vagina and lungs.
- This medication may also be used for other conditions as determined by your doctor.

How is Itraconazole Administered / Taken?

- Itraconazole is available as oral capsules or oral solution. Please note that the capsules and solution are not interchangeable.
- For effective treatment or prevention of fungal infections, please take the medication as instructed by your physician or pharmacist.
- This drug does not work immediately. It may take weeks to months before you notice the benefits.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double the dosage.

Itraconazole Capsules:

- Please take the dose with a full meal to improve its absorption.
- Swallow capsules in whole with water.
- Do not chew or crush the capsules.

Itraconazole Solution:

- Please take the dose on an empty stomach, at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.
- For the treatment of fungal infections in the mouth, you should swish the oral solution in your mouth for a few seconds before swallowing.

Can Itraconazole be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Itraconazole may have interactions when taken with other medications. These include blood thinners, medication for the heart, seizures, tuberculosis, cholesterol lowering and immunosuppressant. This is a non-exhaustive list.
- Please inform your doctor of the list of medications that you are currently taking – this includes over-the-counter medications, supplements and traditional/herbal remedies that you are currently taking, as they may affect the way you benefit from itraconazole.

What are the Side Effects of Itraconazole?

- Serious side effects are not common. However it is important that you recognise the side effects of itraconazole and know how to manage them.

Side Effect	Management
Nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid rich and spicy food. Consider small and light meals.
Liver problems e.g. yellowing of the white parts of your eyes, severe abdominal pain, tea-coloured urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop your medication. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if these side effects occur.• For patients on long-term itraconazole, your liver function will be monitored during your treatment.
Shortness of breath, unexpected weight gain, swelling of your legs or tummy, awakenings at night due to shortness of breath	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult your doctor as soon as possible as these may be signs of heart failure.

Please check with your doctor or pharmacist if you have other side effects that you think may be caused by this class of medicine.

If you developed rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There Any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- Do not take this medication if you are pregnant, planning for pregnancy or think you might be pregnant. The use of itraconazole during pregnancy may harm the foetus. Effective contraception should be used during treatment and two months following the treatment.
- Medications that reduce stomach acid/ protect the stomach (e.g. antacids, famotidine or omeprazole) should not be taken at the same time as itraconazole, as these medications affect the acidity in the stomach and prevent itraconazole from being absorbed into the body properly. If you need to take such medications, please take them two hours before the dose or wait two hours after taking itraconazole.
- Inform your doctor if you have a history of heart disease or if you are on heart medication (e.g. calcium channel blockers) as these medications can weaken the pumping action of the heart when taken concurrently with itraconazole.

How do I Store Itraconazole?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.
- Do not keep itraconazole in the same container with other medications. Keep each medication in separately labeled containers.
- For itraconazole solution, discard the remaining solution 1 month after opening.

If you have any problems with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

