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1.5.3 Patient Information Leaflet (PIL)

Package leaflet: Information for the patient

FLUCAZOL CAPSULES 100 mg
FLUCAZOL POWDER FOR ORAL SUSPENSION 50 mg/5 ml
FLUCAZOL POWDER FOR ORAL SUSPENSION 150 mg/6 g
FLUCAZOL POWDER FOR ORAL SUSPENSION 200 mg/8 g

Fluconazole

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

In this leaflet:

1. What FLUCAZOL is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take FLUCAZOL
3. How to take FLUCAZOL
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store FLUCAZOL
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. WHAT FLUCAZOL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

FLUCAZOL is one of a group of medicines called “antifungals”. The active substance is fluconazole.

FLUCAZOL is used to treat infections caused by fungi and may also be used to stop you from getting a candidal infection. The most common cause of fungal infections is a yeast called *Candida*.

Adults

You might be given this medicine by your doctor to treat the following types of fungal infections:

- Cryptococcal meningitis - a fungal infection in the brain
- Coccidioidomycosis - a disease of the bronchopulmonary system
- Infections caused by *Candida* and found in the blood stream, body organs (e.g. heart, lungs) or urinary tract
- Mucosal thrush - infection affecting the lining of the mouth, throat and denture sore mouth
- Genital thrush - infection of the vagina or penis
- Skin infections - e.g. athlete's foot, ringworm, jock itch, nail infection

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You might also be given FLUCAZOL to:

- stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back
- stop mucosal thrush from coming back
- reduce recurrence of vaginal thrush
- stop you from getting an infection caused by *Candida* (if your immune system is weak and not working properly)

Children and adolescents (0 to 17 years old)

You might be given this medicine by your doctor to treat the following types of fungal infections:

- Mucosal thrush - infection affecting the lining of the mouth, throat
- Infections caused by *Candida* and found in the blood stream, body organs (e.g. heart, lungs) or urinary tract
- Cryptococcal meningitis - a fungal infection in the brain

You might also be given FLUCAZOL to:

- stop you from getting an infection caused by *Candida* (if your immune system is weak and not working properly).
- stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE FLUCAZOL

Do not take FLUCAZOL if you

- are allergic (hypersensitive) to fluconazole, to other medicines you have taken to treat fungal infections or to any of the other ingredients of FLUCAZOL (listed in section 6). The symptoms may include itching, reddening of the skin or difficulty in breathing
- are taking astemizole, terfenadine (antihistamine medicines for allergies)
- are taking cisapride (used for stomach upsets)
- are taking pimozide (used for treating mental illness)
- are taking quinidine (used for treating heart arrhythmia)
- are taking erythromycin (an antibiotic for treating infections)

Warnings and precautions

Tell your doctor if you

- have liver or kidney problems
- suffer from heart disease, including heart rhythm problems
- have abnormal levels of potassium, calcium or magnesium in your blood.
- develop severe skin reactions (itching, reddening of the skin or difficulty in breathing).
- develop signs of ‘adrenal insufficiency’ where the adrenal glands do not produce adequate amounts of certain steroid hormones such as cortisol (chronic, or long lasting fatigue, muscle weakness, loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal pain).

Other medicines and FLUCONAZOL

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines Tell your doctor or pharmacist **immediately** if you are taking astemizole, terfenadine (an antihistamine for treating allergies) or cisapride (used for stomach upsets) or

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pimozide (used for treating mental illness) or quinidine (used for treating heart arrhythmia) or erythromycin (an antibiotic for treating infections) as these should not be taken with FLUCAZOL (see section: “Do not take FLUCAZOL if you”).

There are some medicines that may interact with FLUCAZOL. Make sure your doctor knows if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- rifampicin or rifabutin (antibiotics for infections)
- alfentanil, fentanyl (used as anaesthetic)
- amitriptyline, nortriptyline (used as anti-depressant)
- amphotericin B, voriconazole (anti-fungal)
- medicines that thin the blood to prevent blood clots (warfarin or similar medicines)
- benzodiazepines (midazolam, triazolam or similar medicines) used to help you sleep or for anxiety
- carbamazepine, phenytoin (used for treating fits)
- nifedipine, isradipine, amlodipine felodipine and losartan (for hypertension- high blood pressure)
- ciclosporin, everolimus, sirolimus or tacrolimus (to prevent transplant rejection)
- cyclophosphamide, vinca alkaloids (vincristine, vinblastine or similar medicines) used for treating cancer
- halofantrine (used for treating malaria)
- statins (atorvastatin, simvastatin and fluvastatin or similar medicines) used for reducing high cholesterol levels
- methadone (used for pain)
- celecoxib, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ibuprofen, lornoxicam, meloxicam, diclofenac (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID))
- oral contraceptives
- prednisone (steroid)
- zidovudine, also known as AZT; saquinavir (used in HIV-infected patients)
- medicines for diabetes such as chlorpropamide, glibenclamide, glipizide or tolbutamide
- theophylline (used to control asthma)
- vitamin A (nutritional supplement)
- ivacaftor (used for treating cystic fibrosis)
- amiodarone (used for treating uneven heartbeats ‘arrhythmias’)
- hydrochlorothiazide (a diuretic)

Taking FLUCAZOL with food and drink

You can take your medicine with or without food.

FLUCAZOL capsules contains tartrazine which may cause allergic reactions.

FLUCAZOL capsules contains lactose, if you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

FLUCAZOL powder for oral suspension contains sucrose (sugar). If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, please contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

Bottle: doses of 5 ml of suspension contain 1.9 g of sugar.

Packs: a dose of 6 g contains 5.7 g of sugar, a dose of 8 g contains 7.6 g of sugar.

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This should be taken into account if you have diabetes.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine. You should not take FLUCAZOL while you are pregnant unless your doctor has told you to.

You can continue breast-feeding after taking a single dose of FLUCAZOL up to 200 mg.

You should not breast-feed if you are taking a repeated dose of FLUCAZOL.

Driving and using machines

When driving vehicles or using machines, it should be taken into account that occasionally dizziness or fits may occur.

3. HOW TO TAKE FLUCAZOL

Always take your medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The recommended dose of this medicine for different infections are below:

Adults

Condition	Dose
To treat cryptococcal meningitis	400 mg on the first day then 200 mg to 400 mg once daily for 6 to 8 weeks or longer if needed. Sometimes doses are increased up to 800 mg
To stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back	200 mg once daily until you are told to stop
To treat coccidioidomycosis	200 mg to 400 mg once daily from 11 months for up to 24 months or longer if needed. Sometimes doses are increased up to 800 mg
To treat internal fungal infections caused by <i>Candida</i>	800 mg on the first day then 400 mg once daily until you are told to stop
To treat mucosal infections affecting the lining of mouth, throat and denture sore mouth	200 mg to 400 mg on the first day then 100 mg to 200 mg until you are told to stop
To treat mucosal thrush – dose depends on where the infection is located	50 mg to 400 mg once daily for 7 to 30 days until you are told to stop
To stop mucosal infections affecting the lining of mouth and throat from coming back	100 mg to 200 mg once daily, or 200 mg 3 times a week, while you are at risk of getting an infection
To treat genital thrush	150 mg as a single dose

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To reduce recurrence of vaginal thrush	150 mg every third day for a total of 3 doses (day 1, 4 and 7) and then once a week for 6 months while you are at risk of getting an infection
To treat fungal skin and nail infections	Depending on the site of the infection 50 mg once daily, 150 mg once weekly, 300 to 400 mg once weekly for 1 to 4 weeks (Athlete's foot may be up to 6 weeks, for nail infection treatment until infected nail is replaced)
To stop you from getting an infection caused by <i>Candida</i> (if your immune system is weak and not working properly)	200 mg to 400 mg once daily while you are at risk of getting an infection

Adolescents from 12 to 17 years old

Follow the dose prescribed by your doctor (either adults or children posology).

Children to 11 years old

The maximum dose for children is 400 mg daily.

The dose will be based on the child's weight in kilograms.

Condition	Daily dose
Mucosal thrush and throat infections caused by <i>Candida</i> – dose and duration depends on the severity of the infection and on where the infection is located	3 mg per kg of body weight (6 mg per kg of body weight might be given on the first day)
Cryptococcal meningitis or internal fungal infections caused by <i>Candida</i>	6 mg to 12 mg per kg of body weight
To avoid recurrence of cryptococcal meningitis	6 mg per kg of body weight once a day
To stop children from getting an infection caused by <i>Candida</i> (if their immune system is not working properly)	3 mg to 12 mg per kg of body weight

Use in children 0 to 4 weeks of age

Use in children of 3 to 4 weeks of age:

The same dose as above but given once every 2 days. The maximum dose is 12 mg per kg of body weight every 48 hours.

Use in children less than 2 weeks old:

The same dose as above but given once every 3 days. The maximum dose is 12 mg per kg of body weight every 72 hours.

Elderly

The usual adult dose should be given unless you have kidney problems.

Patients with kidney problems

Your doctor may change your dose, depending on your kidney function.

If you take more FLUCAZOL than you should

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Taking too much fluconazole may make you unwell. Contact your doctor or your nearest hospital casualty department at once. The symptoms of a possible overdose may include hearing, seeing, feeling and thinking things that are not real (hallucination and paranoid behaviour). Symptomatic treatment (with supportive measures and gastric lavage if necessary) may be adequate.

If you forget to take FLUCAZOL

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the dose that you missed.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Capsules: swallow the capsule(s) whole with a glass of water. It is best to take your capsules at the same time each day.

Instructions to make up the suspension:

Bottle:

- Tap the bottle to release the powder.
- Add a small quantity of still water and shake it vigorously. Add water up to the level marked on the bottle.
- Shake well for one to two minutes to obtain a well-mixed suspension.
- Write the expiry date of the reconstituted suspension on the bottle label (the shelf life of the reconstituted suspension is 14 days).

Pack: open the pack by tearing or cutting at the level of the pre-cutting line and pour the content of the pack in a glass of drinking water, swirl and swallow.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, FLUCAZOL can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. A few people develop **allergic reactions** although serious allergic reactions are rare. If you get any of the following symptoms, **tell your doctor immediately.**

- sudden wheezing, difficulty in breathing or tightness in the chest
- swelling of eyelids, face or lips
- itching all over the body, reddening of the skin or itchy red spots
- skin rash
- severe skin reactions such as a rash that causes blistering (this can affect the mouth and tongue).

FLUCAZOL may affect your liver. The signs of liver problems include:

- tiredness
- loss of appetite
- vomiting
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes (jaundice)

If any of these happen, stop taking FLUCAZOL and **tell your doctor immediately.**

Other side effects:

Additionally, if any of the following side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

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Common side effects which affect 1 to 10 users in 100 are listed below:

- headache
- stomach discomfort, diarrhoea, feeling sick, vomiting
- increases in blood tests of liver function
- rash

Uncommon side effects which affect 1 to 10 users in 1,000 are listed below:

- reduction in red blood cells which can make skin pale and cause weakness or breathlessness
- decreased appetite
- inability to sleep, feeling drowsy
- fit, dizziness, sensation of spinning, tingling, pricking or numbness, changes in sense of taste
- constipation, difficult digestion, wind, dry mouth
- muscle pain
- liver damage and yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- wheals, blistering (hives), itching, increased sweating
- tiredness, general feeling of being unwell, fever

Rare side effects which affect 1 to 10 users in 10,000 are listed below:

- lower than normal white blood cells that help defend against infections and blood cells that help to stop bleeding
- red or purple discoloration of the skin which may be caused by low platelet count, other blood cell changes
- blood chemistry changes (high blood levels of cholesterol, fats)
- low blood potassium
- shaking
- abnormal electrocardiogram (ECG), change in heart rate or rhythm
- liver failure
- allergic reactions (sometimes severe), including widespread blistering rash and skin peeling, severe skin reactions, swelling of the lips or face
- hair loss

Side effects of unknown frequency but that can occur (the frequency cannot be estimated based on the available data) are:

- hypersensitivity reaction with skin rash, fever, swelling of the lymph nodes, increase of a type of white blood cell (eosinophils) and internal organs inflammation (liver, lungs, heart, kidneys and bowel) (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS syndrome)).

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system.

5. HOW TO STORE FLUCAZOL

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Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Store below 30°C.

After reconstitution, the oral suspension can be kept for 14 days. The reconstituted suspension should not be frozen.

Do not take FLUCAZOL after the expiry date stated on the carton after « EXP ». The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What does FLUCAZOL contain?

- the active ingredient is fluconazole
- the other ingredients are:

100 mg capsules: lactose, anhydrous calcium hydrogen phosphate, talc, microcrystalline cellulose. Capsule shell: gelatin, brilliant blue (E133), tartrazine (E102), titanium dioxide (E171)

The capsules are green and packaged in boxes of 10.

Powder for oral suspension:

Xanthan gum, sodium benzoate (E211), anhydrous colloidal silica, sodium citrate, citric acid, orange aroma, Sunset Yellow dye (E110), sucrose.

The powder for oral suspension is packaged in boxes containing 1 bottle of 60 ml containing 24 g of powder and in packs containing 6 g or 8 g of powder.

All packaging might not be marketed.

FLUCAZOL ® is a trademark

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Zoning Industriel de Nivelles Sud, Zone II

Avenue Thomas Edison, 105

1402 Thines - Belgium

Phone +32 (0)67 68 84 05

Fax +32 (0)67 68 84 19

Manufacturer

Gracure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.,
E-105 Industrial area, Phase III,
Bhiwadi (Raj) India.

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