

		Canesten 6 Day Pessary CMI 8 September 2017
	Consumer Medicine Information	

# Canesten<sup>®</sup> Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary

## Clotrimazole vaginal pessaries 100 mg

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Canesten<sup>®</sup> Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your pharmacist has weighed the risks of you using Canesten<sup>®</sup> Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about using this treatment, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

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### What Canesten<sup>®</sup> Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary is used for

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Canesten<sup>®</sup> Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary is used to treat a fungal infection in the vagina and vulval area (thrush).

This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called azole antifungals.

#### ***What is vaginal thrush?***

*Candida albicans* is a yeast fungus that can multiply rapidly and cause symptoms in the vagina when other micro-organisms aren't present in a normal balance.

Some situations which can increase susceptibility to thrush are:

- diabetes
- obesity
- illness
- fatigue
- hormonal fluctuations (pregnancy, menstrual cycle, oral contraceptive pill, HRT [hormone replacement therapy])
- prolonged use of antibiotics or steroids

Thrush may cause the following symptoms:

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- vaginal itching
- vaginal soreness
- a white odourless discharge from the vagina (like cottage cheese)
- pain during intercourse

The symptoms below are **not** usually signs of thrush:

- abnormal or irregular vaginal bleeding
- blood stained discharge
- vulva or vaginal sores, ulcers or blisters
- lower abdominal pain
- pain when passing urine
- fever or chills
- foul smelling and/or unusual coloured discharge

See your doctor if you experience any of the above symptoms.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about whether this medicine is suitable for you.**

This medicine is available without a doctor's prescription, only through your pharmacist.

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## **Before you use Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary**

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### ***When you must not use it***

**Do not use Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing *clotrimazole*
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include swelling to the area to which treatment has been applied; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

**Do not use this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start using this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.**

### ***Before you start to use it***

**See your doctor if:**

- you are unsure whether you have thrush or this is the first time you have had thrush (see *What is vaginal thrush?*)
- you are under the age of 18 years or over the age of 60 years
- you have had 3 or more infections in the last 6 months
- your symptoms include pain, fever or a foul smelling, unusual coloured or blood stained discharge

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- you have allergies to any other topical treatments

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or think you might be.**

You should see your doctor if you suspect you have thrush in the first three months of your pregnancy. Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved with treatment. To treat internal thrush, your doctor may recommend that you use the pessary without the help of an applicator

**Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding and want to use this treatment.**

It is not known whether the active ingredient, clotrimazole, is excreted in breast milk. Your doctor will be able to discuss with you the risks and benefits involved with treatment.

**Tell your doctor if you are diabetic.**

Thrush in diabetics can mean that your blood sugar levels are not well controlled. Your doctor will be able to check this for you and advise treatment.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, do so before you start using Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary.**

***Taking other medicines***

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or using any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking tacrolimus (e.g. Prograf®), a medicine used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat certain problems with the immune system.

**How to use Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary**

**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions below, or on the box, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

***How to use it***

**Wash your hands thoroughly before handling a pessary or using the applicator.**

To avoid the possibility of re-infection, strict personal hygiene must be observed.

A pessary should preferably be inserted in the evening, just before bed time, with the use of an applicator. Using it before you go to sleep will have the best effect.

**Loading the applicator**

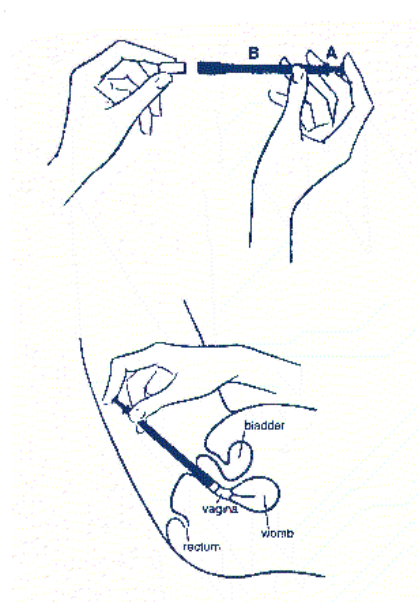
1. Wash your hands thoroughly.
2. Pull out the plunger until it stops (A).
3. Remove the pessary from the blister. Squeeze the cup end of the applicator (B) between your thumb and index finger to slightly flatten the cup.

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- Place a pessary into the flattened cup end of the applicator.

### **Inserting the applicator**

- Carefully insert the end of the applicator containing the pessary as gently and deeply into the vagina as possible. This is best achieved when lying on your back with your knees bent.
- Hold the applicator in position and slowly push the plunger with the forefinger until it stops. This places the pessary in the vagina.
- Remove the applicator from the vagina.
- Thoroughly wash and dry the applicator.



### **How long to use it**

**Insert one pessary nightly for 6 consecutive nights.**

Alternatively, insert two pessaries nightly for 3 consecutive nights.

This treatment helps to relieve your condition. It is important to keep using it until the fungal infection is gone.

**If you miss a dose, continue with the next dose as soon as you remember, or the next evening.**

Continue using the pessaries until the course is finished.

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**DO NOT TAKE THE PESSARY BY MOUTH.**

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**Seek medical advice if you or anyone else has taken Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary by mouth. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need medical attention.**

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## **While you are using Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary**

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### ***Things you must do***

**Discontinue treatment and tell your doctor or pharmacist if you develop a local reaction to this product.**

**See your doctor if the symptoms do not improve within 4 days or if the problem returns within 2 months.**

### ***Things you must not do***

**Do not use Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give your treatment to anyone else, even if you suspect they have the same condition as you.**

**Do not stop using this medicine until you have completed the course.**

If you stop taking it suddenly, your condition may worsen.

### ***Things to be careful of***

**Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary may reduce the effectiveness and safety of latex products such as condoms and diaphragms if it comes into contact with them.**

Therefore you should prevent Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary from coming into contact with these products. If Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary does accidentally come into contact with a condom or diaphragm, replace the condom or diaphragm before using it as contraception.

### ***Things that may help to resolve Thrush***

Some self help measures suggested below may help your condition. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you more information about these measures.

- blot with toilet paper after urinating (instead of wiping back to front).
- change underwear, night attire, towels and linen daily.

Avoid where possible:

- perfumed toilet paper
- fragrant soaps and bath oils
- wearing tight or synthetic clothing
- douches or vaginal deodorants
- soaking in baths

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## **Side effects**

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you experience discomfort while you are using Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary.**

This medicine helps most people with thrush but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- skin reaction to the pessary (burning, stinging, redness)
- pain in the abdomen or pelvic area

**Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency centre if you experience any of the following:**

- rash
- swallowing or breathing problems
- swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue
- nausea, weakness, feeling dizzy or faint

Any of the above may be signs of an allergic reaction. Your doctor or pharmacist may recommend you discontinue treatment if you experience these effects.

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## **After using Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary**

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### ***Storage***

**Keep the pessaries in the protective blister pack until it is time to use them.**

If you take the pessaries out of the blister pack they may not keep well.

**Keep your pessaries in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.**

**Keep the treatment where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### ***Expiry***

The expiry date is marked on the end panel of the carton and is also printed on the back of the blister. The date refers to the month and year of expiration e.g. 0817 refers to the eighth month of 2017. The product can be used until the end of this month.

### ***Disposal***

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**If your doctor tells you to stop using this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

**Discard the medicine out of the reach of children.**

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## **Product description**

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### ***What it looks like***

Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary is 6 white pellet-shaped pessaries packaged in an aluminium blister.

The package also contains a plastic applicator for the insertion of the pessaries. The plastic applicator is for use with Canesten® pessaries only.

### ***Ingredients***

Each Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary contains 100 mg clotrimazole as the active ingredient. It also contains:

- lactose monohydrate
- microcrystalline cellulose
- lactic acid
- maize starch
- crospovidone
- calcium lactate
- magnesium stearate
- silicon dioxide
- hypromellose

This medicine does not contain sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

### ***Supplier/Distributor***

Canesten® Clotrimazole Thrush 6 Day Pessary is distributed in New Zealand by:

Bayer New Zealand Limited  
3 Argus Place  
Hillcrest  
North Shore 0627  
AUCKLAND  
Toll Free: 0800 847 874  
www.canesten.co.nz

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**Reference: Canesten Data Sheet dated 8 September 2017.**

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