

VORICONAZOLE IV Injection

Voriconazole (*vori-con-a-zole*)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about voriconazole.

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 doctor has weighed the risks of you taking voriconazole against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Read this leaflet carefully before taking voriconazole and keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What Voriconazole is used for

Voriconazole is used to treat fungal and yeast infections such as:

- invasive aspergillosis (as-pur-ji-losis), a fungal infection caused by a fungus called *Aspergillus* (as-pur-jilus), which usually begins in the respiratory tract (in the nose, sinuses or lungs). *Aspergillus* is harmless in most healthy people; however, in people with poor immune systems (such as people who have had organ transplants and people with cancer or HIV/AIDS) invasive aspergillosis can be serious and spread to other tissues and organs
- serious *Candida* (can-did-da) infections, including *Candida* infections of the food pipe and those that have spread into the blood stream or to other parts of the body

- serious fungal infections caused by *Scedosporium* (ski-doe-sporerium) species and *Fusarium* (few-saa-ri-um) species
- other serious fungal infections in patients who do not respond to, or cannot tolerate, other antifungal medicines.

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

This medicine works by preventing the growth of fungal and yeast organisms causing your infection.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you start to use it

When you must not use it

Do not take voriconazole if you have ever had an allergy to:

- any medicine containing voriconazole
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other similar medicines.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; skin rash, itching or hives.

Do not take voriconazole if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- cisapride (e.g. Prepulsid), a medicine used to treat stomach problems

- pimozide (e.g. Orap), a medicine used to treat mental illness
- quinidine (e.g. Kinidin Durules), a medicine used to treat irregular heart beat
- rifampicin (e.g. Rifadin, Rimycin), a medicine used to treat tuberculosis
- carbamazepine (e.g. Tegretol, Teril), a medicine used to treat seizures
- long-acting barbiturates such as phenobarbitone, medicines used to treat severe insomnia and seizures
- ergotamine (e.g. Cafergot) or dihydroergotamine (e.g. Dihyergot), medicines used to treat migraine
- sirolimus (e.g. Rapamune), a medicine used in transplant patients
- ritonavir (e.g. Norvir, Kaletra) (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 400 mg or more twice a day
- St John's wort (a herbal medicine).

Voriconazole should not be given to a child under the age of 2 years.

Safety and effectiveness in children younger than 2 years has not been established.

Do not take 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 taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any foods, preservatives or dyes or any other

medicines, especially antifungal medicines such as itraconazole (Sporanox), fluconazole (Diflucan) or ketoconazole (Nizoral) (not all brands given).

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- heart problems
- any problems affecting your kidneys
- any problems affecting your liver. If you have liver disease your doctor may prescribe a lower dose
- recent chemotherapy or stem cell transplant.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Voriconazole should not be taken during pregnancy, unless indicated by your doctor. Effective contraception should be used in women of childbearing potential. Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.

Voriconazole should not be taken whilst breastfeeding, unless indicated by your doctor. It is not known if the active ingredient voriconazole passes into breast milk. Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell your doctor before you start taking Voriconazole.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines should not be taken with voriconazole. These include (not all brands given):

- cisapride (e.g. Prepulsid), a medicine used for treating stomach problems
- pimozone (e.g. Orap), a medicine used to treat mental illness
- quinidine (e.g. Kinidin Durules), a medicine for irregular heart beat

- rifampicin (e.g. Rifadin, Rimycin), a medicine used to treat tuberculosis
- carbamazepine (e.g. Tegretol, Teril), a medicine used to treat seizures
- long-acting barbiturates such as phenobarbitone, medicines used to treat severe insomnia and seizures
- ergotamine (e.g. Cafergot) or dihydroergotamine (e.g. Dihyergot), medicines used to treat migraine
- sirolimus (e.g. Rapamune) a medicine used in transplant patients
- ritonavir (e.g. Norvir, Kaletra) (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 400 mg or more twice a day
- St John's wort (a herbal medicine).

Some medicines and voriconazole may interfere with each other. These include (not all brands given):

- efavirenz (e.g. Stocrin), a medicine used to treat HIV infection
- ritonavir (e.g. Norvir, Kaletra), (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 100 mg twice a day
- warfarin (e.g. Marevan, Coumadin), a medicine used to stop blood clots
- phenytoin (e.g. Dilantin), a medicine used to treat epilepsy
- cyclosporin (e.g. Sandimmun, Neoral), a medicine used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat certain problems with the immune system
- sulphonylureas, medicines used to treat diabetes such as glibenclamide, glicazide and glipizide (e.g. Daonil, Diamicon, Minidiab)
- rifabutin (e.g. Mycobutin), an antibiotic
- theophylline (e.g. Nuelin), a medicine used to treat asthma
- benzodiazepines (e.g. Valium), medicines used to treat insomnia or anxiety
- statins (e.g. Zocor, Lipitor), medicines used for lowering cholesterol
- tacrolimus (e.g. Prograf), a medicine used in patients who

have had a liver or kidney transplant

- indinavir (e.g. Crixivan), and some other medicines used to treat HIV infection
- omeprazole (e.g. Losec), a medicine used to treat indigestion, reflux and stomach ulcers
- methadone (used to treat heroin addiction)
- oral contraceptives (the Pill)
- Vincristine, vinblastine or vinorelbine, medicines used in treating cancer (e.g. Vepesid)
- strong painkillers such as alfentanil (e.g. Rapifen), fentanyl (e.g. Durogesic, Actiq) and oxycodone (e.g. Endone, Proladone)
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, medicines used to treat pain and inflammation such as ibuprofen and diclofenac (e.g. Nurofen, Voltaren).

These medicines may be affected by voriconazole or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

How to take voriconazole

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 on the box or bottle, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how much to take depending on your weight.

Adults

The usual dose of voriconazole IV is 6 mg/kg every 12 hours for the first day. The dose is then adjusted to 3 mg/kg or 4 mg/kg every 12 hours, depending on the type of infection you have.

Children

Voriconazole should not be given to a child under the age of 2 years.

The usual dose of voriconazole IV in children aged 2 to 12 years is 7 mg/kg every 12 hours.

Depending on how you react to the medicine, your doctor may decrease your dose.

Adolescents (12-16 years of age):

Adolescents are usually given the same dose as adults.

How to take it

Voriconazole needs to be taken regularly to be effective.

Voriconazole must be taken at least one hour before or one hour after a meal.

Voriconazole IV

Voriconazole IV is given as an injection by a doctor or trained nurse. Voriconazole IV is a powder which is mixed with Water for Injections and then diluted by your pharmacist or doctor. It is then given by injection into a vein.

When to take it

Take your medicine regularly at about the same time each day.

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

How long to take it

The length of time you take voriconazole will depend on the type of infection you have.

If you have a weakened immune

system or a difficult infection, you may need long-term treatment to prevent the infection from returning.

You may be switched from the injection to voriconazole Tablets once your condition improves.

Continue taking voriconazole until you finish the pack or for as long as your doctor or pharmacist recommends. Do not stop taking voriconazole because you are feeling better.

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, the infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

If you forget to take it

If you forget to take one dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

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

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

However, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you think that a dose has been forgotten.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (Telephone New Zealand 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much voriconazole. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include upset stomach, diarrhoea, headache and sensitivity to light.

While you are using voriconazole

Things you must do

If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

Tell your doctor immediately if you develop a rash or blisters while taking voriconazole. If this rash worsens, voriconazole may need to be stopped.

Avoid going out in the sun for long periods of time while you are taking voriconazole. Voriconazole can cause sensitivity to sunlight.

Tell your doctor if you notice any changes to your skin while you are taking voriconazole.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking voriconazole.

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine. If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine. It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

If you are a woman of childbearing age, you should avoid becoming pregnant while taking voriconazole. If you become pregnant while taking voriconazole, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine. It may interfere with the results of some tests.

Keep all appointments, including blood tests, and follow all instructions given by your doctor. You will need to have regular blood tests to monitor the function of your liver and kidneys. If you have liver disease, your doctor might lower your dose of voriconazole or stop your

voriconazole treatment. Your doctor might also monitor the function of your pancreas.

Things you must not do

Do not go out in the sun for long periods of time.

If you need to be in the sun, use a 30+ sunscreen and wear a hat and shirt to protect your skin from the sun.

This medicine may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight. This means your skin may burn more quickly than usual. Signs of sunburn include redness, itching, swelling and blistering of the skin.

Do not take voriconazole to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else even if they have the same condition as you or if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, the infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how voriconazole affects you.

You may experience changes to your vision, such as blurriness, colour changes or uncomfortable sensitivity to light.

If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous. Do not drive at night.

Children should be careful when riding bicycles or climbing.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking voriconazole.

This medicine helps most people with fungal infections, 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. If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of possible 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:

- Changes to your vision, such as blurred vision, colour changes or sensitivity to light
- irregular heart beat
- nausea or feeling sick, vomiting
- headache
- stomach pain, indigestion, diarrhoea
- back pain in the middle or upper back
- swelling of the arms or legs
- rash changes to your skin, such as skin eruptions or small lumps on the skin
- soreness at the injection site.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- asthma, wheezing, shortness of breath
- sudden or severe itching, skin rash, hives or blisters
- fainting, seizures or fits
- flaking of the skin
- yellowing of the skin or eyes, also called jaundice
- signs of frequent or worsening infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- blood in urine
- signs of kidney failure such as no appetite, very tired, difficulty in urinating.

These may be signs of a serious allergic reaction or side effect. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor if you notice any other side effects.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

After using voriconazole

Storage

Voriconazole IV

Voriconazole IV will be stored in the pharmacy or on the hospital ward and is kept below 30°C.

Disposal

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

Product description

What it looks like

Voriconazole IV

Voriconazole IV comes as a white powder in a clear, colourless, glass vial which contains 200 mg of voriconazole.

Ingredients

Active Ingredients

Voriconazole IV contains 200 mg of voriconazole as the active ingredient in each vial.

Voriconazole IV contains the following other ingredients:

- Water for Injections
- Hydroxypropyl beta cyclodextrine
- Sodium chloride

Supplier

Voriconazole is supplied in New Zealand by:

Neo Health (NZ) Limited
Level 27, PWC Tower
188 Quay Street, Auckland 1010
New Zealand

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