Itraconazole (Sporanox®)

100 mg capsule

How does this medication work?

Itraconazole is used for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections.

How do I take this medication?

Your dosage

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<th>Itraconazole</th>
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<td>____ capsule(s), 100 mg</td>
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<td>____ times a day</td>
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Itraconazole in capsule form must be taken with food, as this improves its absorption and efficacy.

Orange juice or Coca-cola® 15 minutes before taking itraconazole may also increase absorption.

It is important to take itraconazole regularly, at the same time each day, for the duration of your treatment, even if you feel better after a while.

*Never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.*

What if I forget to take a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible, and then continue with your regular schedule.

If it is nearly time for your next dose, however, just take that one according to the normal schedule. Do not double up doses.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Itraconazole is generally well tolerated.

It may occasionally cause nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Taking itraconazole with food reduces these effects. If they occur and persist, consult your pharmacist, doctor or dietician for ways to manage them.

An allergic reaction may occur. If you notice the appearance of a skin eruption (rash, redness with or without itching) or other effect on your skin, have a fever or difficulty in breathing, *inform your doctor immediately.*

More rarely, hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) may be found. *Inform your doctor immediately* if you experience two or more of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, unusual fatigue. *Also tell your doctor* if your skin or the whites of your eyes become yellow, your urine is dark or your stools are pale. Your doctor will monitor the effect of itraconazole on your liver by means of regular blood tests.

Other side effects such as drowsiness, headache and dizziness may occur. Find out how itraconazole affects you before driving a vehicle or undertaking any activity that requires close attention.
Can I take itraconazole with my other medications?

- Antacids such as Maalox®, Amphogel®, or Diovol® reduce the absorption and therefore the efficacy of itraconazole. Avoid these combinations, or take itraconazole 2 hours before or at least 6 hours after these products.

- Other drugs used to treat gastric acidity: ranitidine (Zantac®), famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), omeprazole (Losec®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), pantoprazole (Pantoloc®) These agents may impede the absorption and efficacy of itraconazole to a large extent. If you have to take this type of medication, your doctor may increase the dose of itraconazole or change your treatment. Drinking orange juice or Coca-Cola® 15 minutes before taking itraconazole improves its absorption, even when these agents are present.

Itraconazole may also interact with a number of other medications.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, whether on prescription or not, any natural products or recreational drugs.

Can I drink alcohol if I’m on itraconazole?

Avoid the excessive or regular consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits) as these may increase the risk of heptatitis (inflammation of the liver) or interact with some of your medications.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have a drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not be harmful to your health.

What if I’m pregnant or breast-feeding?

Itraconazole should generally not be used in pregnant women, except in certain specific cases.

As the virus can be transmitted via maternal milk, breast-feeding is not recommended in women who are HIV-positive.

Storage

Keep itraconazole in a dry place, at room temperature (15 to 30°C or 59 to 86°F). Avoid humidity (bathrooms, etc.).

Place out of the sight and reach of children.

General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team, so that your condition can be closely monitored.

If you have any questions about your medications or need help on how to schedule when to take them, please contact your doctor or pharmacist, who know your medication well.

Contact person: ______________________

Telephone: ______________________