

Uses

Itraconazole is used to treat a variety of fungal infections. It belongs to a class of drugs known as azole antifungals. It works by stopping the growth of fungi.

How to use Itraconazole

Read the Patient Information Leaflet if available from your pharmacist before you start taking itraconazole and each time you get a refill. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Take this medication by mouth with a full meal as directed by your doctor, usually once or twice daily. Swallow the capsules whole.

Take itraconazole 2 hours before or 1 hour after antacids. Antacids may decrease the absorption of this medication. Also, take this medication with an acidic drink (such as cola) if you have decreased or no stomach acid (achlorhydria) or if you take drugs that decrease stomach acid (for example, H2 blockers such as ranitidine, proton pump inhibitors such as omeprazole). Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details.

Side Effects

See also Warning section.

Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, headache, stomach upset, or dizziness may occur. If any of these effects last or get worse, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly.

Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects.

Tell your doctor right away if you have any serious side effects, including: numbness/tingling of arms/legs, hearing loss, mental/mood changes (such as depression).

Itraconazole has rarely caused very serious (possibly fatal) liver disease. Tell your doctor right away if you develop symptoms of liver disease, such as: nausea/vomiting that doesn't stop, loss of appetite, stomach/abdominal pain, yellowing eyes/skin, dark urine.

Precautions

See also Warning section.

Before taking itraconazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other azole antifungals (such as ketoconazole); or if you have any other allergies. This product may contain inactive ingredients, which can cause allergic reactions or other problems. Talk to your pharmacist for more details.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: liver disease, kidney disease, heart disease (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, heart valve disease), lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease-COPD), decreased or no stomach acid (achlorhydria).

This drug may make you dizzy. Alcohol or marijuana (cannabis) can make you more dizzy. Do not drive, use machinery, or do anything that needs alertness until you can do it safely. Avoid alcoholic beverages. Talk to your doctor if you are using marijuana (cannabis). Alcohol may also increase the risk of serious liver problems.

Interactions

See also Warning and How to Use sections.

Drug interactions may change how your medications work or increase your risk for serious side effects. This document does not contain all possible drug interactions. Keep a list of all the products you use (including prescription/nonprescription drugs and herbal products) and share it with your doctor and pharmacist. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicines without your doctor's approval.

Itraconazole interacts with many medications. See also Warning section.

Other medications can affect the removal of itraconazole from your body, which may affect how itraconazole works. Examples include efavirenz, isoniazid, nevirapine, rifamycins (such as rifabutin), certain drugs used to treat seizures (such as phenytoin), among others