

Clotrimazole

Why is this medication prescribed?

Clotrimazole is used to treat skin infections such as athlete's foot, jock itch, ringworm, and other fungal skin infections (candidiasis). Clotrimazole is an azole antifungal that works by preventing the growth of fungus.

How should this medicine be used?

Use this medication on the skin only. Clean and thoroughly dry the area to be treated. Apply this medication to the affected skin, usually twice a day or as directed by your doctor. Dosage and length of treatment depends on the type of infection being treated. Do not apply this more often than prescribed. Your condition will not clear faster, but side effects may be increased.

Apply enough medication to cover the affected area and some of the surrounding skin. After applying this medication, wash your hands. Do not wrap, cover or bandage the area unless directed to do so by your doctor.

Continue to use this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after starting clotrimazole. Stopping the medication too early may allow the fungus to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection.

Other uses for this medicine

This medication is also used to treat a skin condition known as pityriasis (tinea versicolor), a fungal infection that causes a lightening or darkening of the skin of the neck, chest, arms, or legs.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before using clotrimazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other azole antifungals such as econazole, ketoconazole, or miconazole; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history.

This medication should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy.

It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Serious side effects of clotrimazole topical use are not expected. Stop using clotrimazole topical and see your doctor if you experience unusual or severe blistering, itching, redness, peeling, dryness, swelling, or irritation of the skin.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Protect from light. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.

In case of emergency/overdose

This medicine may be harmful if swallowed. If swallowing is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

What other information should I know?

Use this medication for the full amount of time prescribed by your doctor or as recommended in the package even if you begin to feel better. Your symptoms may improve before the infection is completely healed.

Do not use bandages or dressings that do not allow air to circulate to the affected area (occlusive dressings) unless otherwise directed by your doctor. Wear loose-fitting clothing (preferably cotton).

Avoid getting this medication in your eyes, nose, or mouth.