

Patient Information: Isavuconazole

What is Isavuconazole?

Isavuconazole is an anti-fungal used to treat Aspergillosis infections. It belongs to a group of drugs called triazoles that kill the Aspergillus fungus by preventing it from growing.

When you collect your medicine, it will have the trade name Cresemba® on the packaging. The medicine comes in 100mg capsules.

How should I take my Isavuconazole?

Always take this medicine as directed by your Doctor or Aspergillosis Specialist Nurse/Pharmacist. The capsules are to be taken whole, with or without food.

If you are pregnant, planning a family or if you are breastfeeding speak to your Doctor before using this medicine.

How much should I take?

Starting dose	Take two capsules three times daily for the first two days
Continuing dose	On the third day start taking two capsules per day

Is any monitoring required?

To check the level of Isavuconazole in your body your Hospital Doctor will perform a blood test when you come to clinic or via our postal pack service if you are being seen virtually, the dose may be altered by your Hospital Doctor or Aspergillosis Nurse/Pharmacist depending on this result. It is essential that you undertake this monitoring as instructed to ensure that you are on a safe and effective dose, if we are unable to monitor your antifungal therapy appropriately your treatment would need to be stopped.

Your liver and renal function will be monitored either in clinic or at your GP surgery whilst you are on antifungal therapy.

Should I expect any side effects?

The most common side effects are:

- nausea • vomiting • diarrhoea • stomach/chest pain • feeling short of breath • drowsiness • headaches • hallucinations • loss of appetite • rash • itching

Another possible side effect of Isavuconazole is that it can upset your liver, so it is important for you to be aware of how to recognise this. Symptoms may include; anorexia, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowing of the skin) and dark urine. If you experience any of these symptoms it is very important to seek prompt medical attention.

For a complete list of side effects please read the leaflet in your medication box.

What should I do if I have any side effects?

Do not hesitate to contact your Hospital Doctor or Aspergillosis Specialist Nurse/Pharmacist if you experience any side effects especially those not listed in the patient information leaflet.

Can I take it with my other medications?

Isavuconazole can interact with many medicines. For more details on the medicines you cannot take with it; please refer to the patient information leaflet, speak to your Hospital Doctor, Pharmacist or Aspergillosis Specialist Nurse. You should inform your Hospital Doctor, Pharmacist or Specialist Nurse about any new medicines so they can check for interactions with Isavuconazole.

What if I forget to take it?

Take your usual dose as soon as you remember, however if it is nearly time for the next dose skip the missed dose and take the next dose when it is due **DO NOT** take double the dose to make up the missed dose.

What if I take too much?

If you take more Isavuconazole than you should, talk to a doctor or go to a hospital straight away. Take the medicine pack with you so the doctor knows what you have taken.

You may have more side effects such as:

- headache, feeling dizzy, restless or sleepy,
- tingling, reduced sense of touch or sensation in the mouth,
- problems being aware of things, hot flushes, anxiety, joint pain,
- changes in the way things taste, dry mouth, diarrhoea, vomiting,
- feeling your heartbeat, faster heart rate, being more sensitive to light

How should I store it?

Isavuconazole should be stored in the original packet at room temperature out of the reach and sight of children.

If you experience any unusual side-effects, are worried or have any questions, please feel free to contact the **Aspergillosis Nurses 0161 291 5429**.

More information can be found in the medicine box insert or on-line at www.aspergillosis.org