

# Patient Information: Voriconazole

## What is Voriconazole?

Voriconazole 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.

Voriconazole is available as 50mg or 200mg tablets. It is also available as an oral liquid of 200mg in 5mL. It is available in a variety of different brands.

## How should I take my Voriconazole?

Always take this medicine as directed by your Hospital Doctor or Aspergillosis Specialist Nurse/Pharmacist. The tablets and liquid should be taken on an empty stomach, either an hour before or 2 hours after food.

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

## How much should I take?

The usual dose for aspergillosis is 200mg twice a day, taken 12 hours apart, your Hospital Doctor may recommend a lower dose particularly if you have a low body weight.

## Is any monitoring required?

To check the level of Voriconazole in your body your 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, altered bowel habit (constipation, diarrhoea, or flatulence) abdominal pain, and visual disturbances. If you get visual disturbances these usually get better over a few days or weeks and do not damage your eyes.

Some patients experience troubling dreams, poor concentration or unsteadiness standing or walking. Voriconazole can cause peripheral neuropathy (tingling/numbness in hands and feet) if you experience any of these side effects please seek prompt medical attention.

Voriconazole can make your skin very sensitive to sunlight, you will always need to wear a high factor sun cream, including on your lips, when out in the sun (SPF 50, UVA & UVB protection). You should

avoid being out in the sun as much as possible and should cover your skin as much as possible, you should not use sun beds whilst on Voriconazole.

Another possible side effect of Voriconazole 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 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.

If you develop side effects related to your skin you should contact the team as soon as possible for review.

### **Can I take it with my other medications?**

Voriconazole 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 Voriconazole.

### **What if I forget to take it?**

It is important to take your Voriconazole tablets regularly at the same time each day. If you forget to take one dose, take your next dose when it is due. **DO NOT** take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

### **What if I take too much?**

If you take more tablets than prescribed you must seek medical advice or go to the nearest hospital casualty department immediately. Take your box of Voriconazole tablets with you. You may experience abnormal intolerance to light as a result of taking more Voriconazole than you should

### **How should I store it?**

Voriconazole should be stored in the original container at room temperature, keep 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](http://www.aspergillosis.org)