

# Medication Information

## Posaconazole

(Poe – sa – KON – a – zole)

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### Other names for this medication

Posanol®

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your health care provider. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well. If you stop taking this antifungal too early, it may not cure your infection.

Tell your health care provider and pharmacist about any other medications, natural or herbal products that you take – even the ones you buy without a prescription.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the medication at your regular dosing time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

### While taking this medication you may notice:

- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- abdominal pain
- constipation
- headache
- decrease in appetite

To prevent constipation, eat food high in fibre, drink 6 to 8 glasses of liquid each day, and exercise regularly. Food high in fibre includes whole grain products, vegetables and fruit.

**Tablet (delayed release):** Take with food. Swallow tablets whole; do not divide, crush, dissolve, or chew.

**Oral suspension:** Take during or within 20 minutes following a fatty full meal, such as a full tablespoon of peanut butter. Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Store at room temperature, and can be used for 14 days after being mixed by the pharmacist.

**Contact your health care provider right away or go to the emergency department if you notice:**

- severe abdominal pain
- prolonged constipation
- no improvement or worsening of your infection
- worsening skin rash or hives
- a temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips
- unusual nervousness or trouble sleeping
- fast or irregular heartbeat
- seizures or convulsions
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- dark urine

This medication information handout does not list all possible unwanted effects. Keep track of changes after you start taking this medication and report any unwanted effects to your health care provider.

## Common medications that interact with posaconazole

Use caution with these medications while taking posaconazole.

If you take	Examples	What to do ...
Anti-seizure and epilepsy medications	carbamazepine, phenytoin	Posaconazole may change the levels of the anti-seizure medications in your blood.  You may need to have bloodwork taken regularly.
Cholesterol lowering medications	atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin	Posaconazole may increase the risk of muscle aches or pains while taking cholesterol lowering medications.  Watch for any muscle pains.
Antibiotics	rifampin	Rifampin may reduce levels of the medication in your blood.  You may need to have bloodwork taken regularly.
Vitamin K antagonists	warfarin	Posaconazole can change the way warfarin is broken down by your body.  Your health care provider may ask you to get your INR checked more often.
QT-prolonging agents	amitriptyline, amiodarone, clarithromycin, haloperidol	Your health care provider may order electrocardiograms (ECG's) regularly to monitor your heart rhythm.  If you have palpitations or a fast heartbeat, call your health care provider right away or go to the emergency department.

**Speak to your pharmacist or health care provider if you take any of the above.**

**Pregnancy:** Avoid posaconazole during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

**Breastfeeding:** It is not known if posaconazole passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

**Children:** Posaconazole is not recommended for children younger than 13 years of age.