

# Medication Information

## Voriconazole

(Vor – i – KOE – na – zole)

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### Other names for this medication

Vfend®

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed. 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.

When you take voriconazole, the amount of medication in the body can change over time. **Please remember to book your medication level test at least 30 to 90 minutes before to your scheduled dose** if the doctor tells you this is needed. The test results are used to determine the correct amount of medication and timing between doses to make sure that the medication works properly. **Please make sure you have a lab requisition for this test if necessary.**

Tell your health care provider, including your 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 go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

**Capsule:** Take without food at least one hour before, or one hour following a meal.

**Oral solution:** Take without food at least one hour before, or one hour following a meal. Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Store at room temperature, and can be used for 24 hours after being mixed by the pharmacist.

**While taking this medication you may notice:**

- nausea
- vomiting
- skin rash and/or itchiness
- visual changes, blurring and/or increased sensitivity of the eyes to bright lights – these symptoms do go away, and are not harmful

**Do not drive or do other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this medication affects you.**

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

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

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 voriconazole

Use caution with these medications while taking voriconazole.

If you take	Examples	What to do ...
Anti-seizure and epilepsy medications	carbamazepine, phenytoin	Voriconazole may change the level of the anti-seizure medications or voriconazole (itself) in your blood.  You may need to have bloodwork done more often.
Cholesterol lowering medications	atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin	Voriconazole may increase risk of muscle aches or pains.  Watch for increased muscle aches and pains.
Vitamin K antagonists	warfarin	Voriconazole can change the way warfarin is broken down by your body.  You may need to get your INR checked more often.
Certain antibiotics	rifampin	These medications may reduce the level of voriconazole in your body.  You may need to have bloodwork done more often.
QT prolonging medications	amitriptyline, amiodarone, clarithromycin, haloperidol	Voriconazole can prolong the QT interval. Your health care provider may order electrocardiograms (ECG's) regularly to monitor your QT interval.  If you have a fast heart beat or palpitations, 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 voriconazole 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:** A small amount of voriconazole passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

**Children:** Voriconazole is safe to use with infants, children and adolescents.