

Canesten Thrush Cream

Clotrimazole 2% w/w

Patient Information Leaflet

Thrush is a common infection that most women suffer from at some time in their lives.

Thrush is caused by a yeast (fungus) called Candida which lives harmlessly in the vagina and other parts of the body. However, the natural balance that keeps Candida under control can be upset by many factors such as hormonal changes (menstruation, contraceptive pill, pregnancy, menopause), poor health, antibiotics, perfumed soaps, bath additives and tight clothing.

If the level of yeast increases, it can develop into a thrush infection causing any of the following symptoms: persistent burning, itching around the vagina and vulva, redness, swelling and soreness of the tissues of the vagina and vulva and a whitish, odourless discharge from the vagina.

If this is the first time you have had these symptoms, talk to your doctor before using any treatment.

WHAT DOES CANESTEN® THRUSH CREAM CONTAIN ?

The 20g tube of cream contains Clotrimazole Ph.Eur. at a strength of 2% w/w. Other ingredients are benzyl alcohol, Polysorbate 60, sorbitan stearate, cetyl palmitate, cetostearyl alcohol, octyldodecanol and purified water.

Clotrimazole is an antifungal agent which fights the cause of infections such as thrush.

Marketing Authorisation holder:

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United Kingdom

Manufacturer:

Bayer AG

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Bayer

WHEN SHOULD I USE CANESTEN® THRUSH CREAM?

Canesten Thrush Cream relieves irritation of the vulva (vulvitis), which is caused by thrush (candidiasis). Although Canesten Thrush Cream provides relief from the external irritation caused by vaginal thrush, it cannot treat any internal (vaginal) cause of the infection. Ask your pharmacist to recommend a treatment for this.

Some women suffer from recurrent attacks of thrush. To reduce the frequency of these attacks, the sexual partner's penis can be treated with this cream as well, even if they have no symptoms of thrush.

If you are unsure whether you have thrush, check with your doctor.

WHEN SHOULD I NOT USE CANESTER® THRUSH CREAM?

Do not use the cream if you have previously had an allergic reaction to the active ingredient clotrimazole. If you are unsure about this, ask your doctor.

See your doctor as soon as possible and do not use Canesten Thrush Cream if you have any of the following symptoms:

- irregular vaginal bleeding
- abnormal vaginal bleeding or a blood-stained discharge
- ulcers, blisters or sores of the vagina or vulva
- lower abdominal pain
- pain or difficulty in passing urine
- fever or chills

- feeling sick or vomiting
- diarrhoea
- a foul smelling discharge from the vagina. This is because Canesten Thrush Cream may not be the right treatment for you.

If you are unsure whether you have thrush, check with your doctor before using this product.

WHAT SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN?

If you are pregnant or trying for a baby, tell your doctor before using Canesten Thrush Cream. If you have informed your doctor already, follow his/her instructions carefully.

Before using the cream, you should see your doctor if:

- you have had more than two infections of thrush in the last six months
- you or your partner have ever had a sexually transmitted disease
- you are aged under 16 or over 60
- you have ever had an allergic reaction to Canesten or any other vaginal antifungal products.

As with other creams and pessaries, this product may reduce the effectiveness of rubber contraceptives, such as condoms or diaphragms, when used together. Consequently, you should use alternative precautions for at least five days after using this product.

HOW TO USE CANESTEN® THRUSH CREAM

Before use, pierce the tube seal by inverting the cap over the end of the tube and press. To treat the itching and soreness of the vulva, the cream should be thinly and evenly applied to the area around the entrance of the vagina, two or three times a day and smoothed in gently. A product to treat the internal (vaginal) infection should be used at the same time.

Treatment should be continued until symptoms of the infection disappear. Consult your doctor if the symptoms of your infection do not improve within seven days of finishing treatment for the internal infection.

If your sexual partner is treated with this cream, the cream should be applied to the end of the penis 2 or 3 times a day for two weeks.

HOW TO AVOID FUTURE RECURRENCES

- ✓ wear cotton knickers, and loose clothing
 - ✓ wash daily
 - ✓ after going to the toilet, wipe yourself from the front to back as a thrush infection may be transferred from the bowel
 - ✓ change your sanitary protection regularly
 - ✗ try to avoid wearing tights, nylon knickers and close fitting jeans
 - ✗ try to avoid washing with perfumed soaps or using vaginal deodorants
 - ✗ do not wash hard with sponges or flannels and avoid hot baths with strong perfumed oils
- If you are still worried or have any questions about the symptoms or the treatment of thrush, do not hesitate to ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Your Canesten cream is for external use only and should not be put in the mouth or swallowed. If it is swallowed accidentally, seek medical advice immediately.

WHAT SIDE EFFECTS MAY I EXPERIENCE ?

As with all medicines, the cream may cause side effects in some people. You may experience a mild burning or irritation immediately after applying the cream. If you find this intolerable, stop treatment and tell your doctor. If you experience a rash and itching soon after you start using Canesten Thrush Cream, tell your doctor immediately as you may be allergic to it. If your symptoms get worse or persist, or you feel you are reacting badly to this medicine in any other way, consult your doctor.

IMPORTANT :

Do not store above 25°C

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use the cream after the expiry date (this will be printed at one end of the carton and on the end of the tube of cream).

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If you have any questions or would like more information, call our Canesten Health Advice Line on 0845 758 5030.

Calls charged at local rate.

If you are calling from outside the UK please dial 00 44 845 758 5030, please note that calls will be charged at national rate.

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