

# Itraconazole – respiratory medicine

## Information for patients

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### Why have I been prescribed itraconazole?

Itraconazole belongs to a group of anti-fungal drugs called triazoles. It is used to treat respiratory conditions caused by *Aspergillus* fungus.

Itraconazole kills the *Aspergillus* fungus by preventing it from growing.

### What dose of itraconazole should I take?

The usual dose is 200mg twice a day, 12 hours apart.

This dose may be adjusted by your doctor based on blood levels that will be taken. Your doctor will confirm what dose you should take.

Itraconazole may be supplied as capsules or liquid. The capsules are available as 100mg strength. The liquid comes as a concentration of 10mg/ml. It is important to check the directions on the label of each new box to ensure you are taking the correct dose.

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

### How should I take my itraconazole?

Always take Itraconazole as directed by your doctor and pharmacist. Do not stop taking it unless advised by a healthcare professional.

**Itraconazole capsules** should be taken whole and with food or immediately after a meal. They should be taken with an acidic drink like orange juice or Coca-Cola.

If you take a medication that reduces stomach acid (for example omeprazole or lansoprazole), these should be taken at least 2 hours **after** Itraconazole **capsules**.

**Itraconazole liquid** should be taken on an empty stomach. This is an hour before or 2 hours after food. You do not need to take the liquid with an acidic drink.

Itraconazole preparation	Empty stomach?	With food/acidic drink?
Capsules	No	Yes
Liquid	Yes	No

### What are the side effects of itraconazole?

Most commonly itraconazole can cause nausea, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain. Itraconazole may also cause an increase in your blood pressure, but this can be monitored by your doctor.

Less commonly, itraconazole can affect your heart, which can cause breathlessness and ankle swelling. Some patients may experience tingling/numbness in their hands and feet. These are more serious reactions so please seek prompt medical attention if you experience any of these symptoms.

Itraconazole can occasionally upset your liver. If you notice any yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, anorexia, new abdominal pain, vomiting, fatigue or dark urine contact your doctor promptly.

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

## Is any monitoring needed?

To check that your itraconazole is at a safe and effective dose, the level of the drug in your body needs to be checked. Your doctor will arrange for you to receive a blood test for this and may alter your dose depending on the result.

Your liver and kidney function will be checked before starting treatment and will be monitored at regular intervals either by your GP or in clinic.

## What if I forget to take my itraconazole?

You should take your itraconazole as soon as you remember. However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, skip this missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. **DO NOT** take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

It is important to remember to take itraconazole regularly at the same times each day.

## What if I take too much?

If you take more Itraconazole than you have been prescribed, contact your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

## Can I take itraconazole with my other medications?

Itraconazole can interact with some medicines. Your doctor or pharmacist will review your current medicines and advise if any changes are necessary. Itraconazole can increase your body's exposure to inhaled steroids. If you are prescribed an inhaled corticosteroid your doctor may adjust the dose when you start Itraconazole.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new or over the counter medicines.

You or your doctor can check whether a new medication will interact with itraconazole at:

[www.aspergillus.org.uk](http://www.aspergillus.org.uk)



## How should I store my itraconazole?

Store your itraconazole in the original container at room temperature and out of the reach and sight of children.

If you experience any unusual side effects or have any questions, please contact.....

More information can be found at:

[www.aspergillosis.org](http://www.aspergillosis.org)

