

# Isavuconazole

Respiratory Medicine - Information for patients

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## Why have I been prescribed isavuconazole?

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

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

## What dose of isavuconazole should I take?

The usual dose is 200mg once daily.

It is important to remember to take isavuconazole regularly at the same time each day.

To check that your isavuconazole 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.

It is important to check the directions on the label of each new box to ensure you are taking the correct dose.

## How should I take my isavuconazole?

Do not stop taking isavuconazole unless advised.

| Formulation | Strength | Administration instructions   |
|-------------|----------|---|
| Capsules    | 100mg    | Swallow capsules whole with a glass of water.<br>Can be taken with or without food. |

## What are the side effects of isavuconazole?

As with all medicines, there is a potential risk of side effects, however not everyone will experience them. They may reduce with time as your body adjusts to treatment or improve following a dose adjustment.

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

Your liver and kidney function will be checked before starting treatment and monitored by your GP or in clinic at regular intervals. Your respiratory team may also do an ECG (heart tracing) before and during treatment.

### Common side effects:

- Nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, headache, rash.

### When to seek prompt medical attention:

- Tingling or numbness in the hands or feet as this may be a sign of peripheral neuropathy.
- Signs of liver problems such as abdominal pain, vomiting, fatigue, dark urine or jaundice (yellow skin or whites of the eyes).

- Signs of heart rate changes such as dizziness, light headedness or palpitations (fast heart rate). Your respiratory clinical team may do an ECG (heart tracing) before and during treatment.

### **What if I forget to take my isuvaconazole?**

You should take your isavuconazole 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.

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

If you take more isavuconazole than you have been prescribed, contact your GP or respiratory team immediately.

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

Isavuconazole can interact with some other medicines. Your doctor or pharmacist will review your current medicines and advise if any changes are necessary.

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

### **How should I store my isuvaconazole?**

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

### **Further information**

If you have any other questions about isuvaconazole, please do not hesitate to contact your GP or respiratory team. See below for more information or call 111 for non emergency medical advice.

#### **Aspergillosis Patients & Carers Support:**

<https://aspergillosis.org/>

