Canesten®

**Read all of this leaflet carefully because it contains important information for you.**

This medicine is available without prescription. However, you still need to use Canesten Thrush External Cream carefully to get the best results from it.

- **Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.**
- **Ask your pharmacist if you need more information or advice.**
- **You must contact a doctor if your symptoms worsen or do not improve in 7 days.**
- **If you have any unusual effects after using this product, tell your doctor or pharmacist.**

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**1. WHAT IS CANESTEN® THRUSH EXTERNAL CREAM AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?**

Canesten Thrush External Cream relieves irritation of the vulva (vulvitis) which is caused by vaginal thrush (candidiasis).

Although this cream provides relief from the external irritation caused by vaginal thrush, it cannot treat any internal (vaginal) cause of the infection.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to recommend a treatment for this.

Only use this product if you have been previously diagnosed by your doctor as having vaginal thrush.

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 to prevent re-infection, even if they have no symptoms of thrush.

The active substance in Canesten Thrush External Cream is clotrimazole. Clotrimazole belongs to a group of medicines called azoles and is an antifungal agent which fights the cause of infections such as vaginal thrush.

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**2. BEFORE YOU USE CANESTEN® THRUSH EXTERNAL CREAM**

Do not use Canesten® External Thrush Cream:
- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to clotrimazole or any of the other ingredients, including cetostearyl alcohol or benzyl alcohol, of Canesten Thrush External Cream (see Section 6. Further Information).

Before using Canesten® External Thrush Cream, you should see your doctor if:
- You are unsure whether you have thrush or this is the first time you have had these symptoms.
- 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.

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**3. HOW TO USE CANESTEN® THRUSH EXTERNAL CREAM**

**Women:**

If Canesten Thrush External Cream has been prescribed for you by your doctor, follow any instructions he/she may have given you. If you purchased this product without a prescription, follow these directions closely:
- 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 (vulvitis), the cream should be thinly and evenly applied to the area around the entrance of the vagina, 2 or 3 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 infections disappear. Consult your doctor if the symptoms of your infection do not improve within seven days of finishing treatment for the internal infection.

**Treating your sexual partner:**

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 up to two weeks.
Canesten® Thrush External Cream is for external use only:
Do not put the cream in your mouth or swallow it.
If the cream is swallowed accidentally, tell your doctor straight away or contact the Accident and Emergency Department of your nearest hospital.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
Like all medicines, Canesten Thrush External Cream can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.
As with all medicines, some people may be allergic to the cream. If you are allergic, a reaction will occur soon after you have used the medicine. If you experience an allergic reaction or the redness, burning, pain, itching or swelling get worse, stop using this product and tell your doctor straight away or contact the Accident and Emergency Department of your nearest hospital. Signs of an allergic reaction may include:
• Rash.
• Swallowing or breathing problems.
• Swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue.
• Weakness, feeling dizzy or faint.
• Nausea.
After you apply the cream you might experience:
• Itching, rash, blisters, burning, discomfort, swelling, redness, irritation, pins and needles, or peeling of skin.
If you experience any of the above effects, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.
By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE CANESTEN® THRUSH EXTERNAL CREAM
Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children. 10g Tube: Do not store above 25°C. 20g Tube: This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.
Do not use Canesten Thrush External Cream after the expiry date which is stated at one end of the carton and on the end of the tube of cream. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Follow the instructions on the packaging.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION
What Canesten® Thrush External Cream contains:
• The active substance is clotrimazole at a strength of 2% w/w.
• The other ingredients are benzyl alcohol, polysorbate 60, sorbitan stearate, cetyl palmitate, cetostearyl alcohol, octyldodecanol and purified water.

See Section 2 ‘Do not use’ and ‘Important information about some of the ingredients’ for cetostearyl alcohol and benzyl alcohol advice.

What Canesten® ThrushExternal Cream looks like and contents of the pack:
Canesten Thrush External Cream is available in tubes containing 10g or 20g of white cream. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.