

Fluconazole

Newborn use only

2021

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| Alert | The Antimicrobial Stewardship Team recommends this drug as: Restricted. |
| Indication | Treatment of systemic infection and meningitis caused by susceptible <i>Candida</i> species. Prophylaxis from <i>Candida</i> infection. |
| Action | Triazole antifungal which selectively inhibits fungal cytochrome P-450 sterol C-14 alpha demethylation. |
| Drug type | Antifungal. |
| Trade name | IV: Aspen Fluconazole, Diflucan, Fluconazole Alphapharm, Fluconazole Claris, Fluconazole Hexal, Fluconazole Sandoz, Fluconazole Solution (Baxter). ORAL: Diflucan |
| Presentation | IV: 2 mg/mL injection ORAL: 50 mg/ 5 mL powder for reconstitution |
| Dose | <p>TREATMENT</p> <p>Loading dose: 25 mg/kg Maintenance dose: 12 mg/kg DAILY to start 24 hours after loading dose.</p> <p>The regimen without a loading dose may take up to 5 days to reach steady state. Steady state can be reached in 2 days if a loading dose is used.</p> <p>PROPHYLAXIS*</p> <p>6 mg/kg TWICE per week</p> <p>*Fluconazole prophylaxis may be considered in high risk infants following completion of treatment for <i>Candida</i> sepsis but still carrying risk of recurrence – e.g., presence of indwelling catheters and ongoing skin thrush.</p> |
| Dose adjustment | No information. |
| Maximum dose | |
| Total cumulative dose | |
| Route | IV, Oral |
| Preparation | IV: Administer 2 mg/mL injection –no dilution necessary. Oral: Powder normally reconstituted by Pharmacy. If supplied as dry powder, reconstitute using water for injection with the volume specified on the bottle. |
| Administration | IV: Infusion over 30 minutes. Oral: Can be given with feeds. Shake reconstituted bottle well before drawing up dose. |
| Monitoring | Serum creatinine prior to starting therapy. Liver function, renal function and full blood count. |
| Contraindications | Cardiac rhythm problems as fluconazole may increase QT interval. Hypersensitivity to fluconazole or other constituents. Concurrent therapy with other drugs known to prolong the QT interval and those drugs which are metabolised via the enzyme CYP3A4 e.g., cisapride, erythromycin. |
| Precautions | Consider extending dose interval to 48 hourly if creatinine > 115 micromol/L. Use with caution in hepatic impairment. May precipitate or worsen hyperbilirubinaemia, use with caution. May increase QT interval. |
| Drug interactions | Erythromycin: Concurrent use increases the risk of cardiotoxicity (prolonged QT interval, torsades des pointes); therefore avoid combination. Barbiturates, caffeine, benzodiazepines and phenytoin: Serum concentrations increased by fluconazole, consider dose reduction and therapeutic drug monitoring where available. Hydrochlorothiazide: Increases fluconazole serum concentration, consider dose reduction of fluconazole. Zidovudine: Concentrations are increased by fluconazole; monitor for adverse reactions (anaemia, neutropenia) and extend dose interval. Cisapride: May precipitate arrhythmias, therefore contraindicated. |
| Adverse reactions | Rare: Rash, elevated LFTs, leucopaenia including neutropaenia, agranulocytosis and thrombocytopenia. |

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| Compatibility | Fluids: Glucose 5%, glucose 10%, sodium chloride 0.9% Y-Site: Amino acid solutions, aciclovir, amifostine, amikacin, aminophylline, amiodarone, anidulafungin, aztreonam, benztropine, bivalirudin, calcium folinate, ceftaxime, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, chloramphenicol, clindamycin, digoxin, frusemide, imipenem-cilastatin, pentamidine. |
| Incompatibility | Y-site: Ampicillin, calcium gluconate, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, chloramphenicol, clindamycin, digoxin, frusemide, imipenem-cilastatin, pentamidine. |
| Stability | Vials: Discard remaining contents after use. Oral suspension: Discard 14 days after reconstitution. |
| Storage | Vial and powder for reconstitution: Store below 25°C Reconstituted suspension: Store between 5–30°C |
| Excipients | |
| Special comments | IV and oral doses are equivalent. |
| Evidence | Refer to full version. |
| Practice points | |
| References | Refer to full version. |

| VERSION/NUMBER | DATE |
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| Original 1.0 | 28/08/2015 |
| Current 2.0 | 13/01/2021 |
| REVIEW (5 years) | 13/01/2026 |

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