

## Ketoconazole (Nizoral)

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Ketoconazole is a broad spectrum antifungal agent that is given orally.

### Precautions:

- Nizoral should not be taken by patients with pre-existing liver disease or those who consume a high volume of alcohol.
- Some drugs can have serious interactions with Nizoral. While taking this medication, you should not take any Seldane, Claritin, Hismanal, Propulsid, Rifampin, Isoniazid, Halcion or Xanax.
- Other drugs known to interact with Nizoral include antacids, anticholinergics, H<sub>2</sub> blockers (such as Tagamet, Zantac or Pepcid). If you take these medications, you should take them at least two hours *after* you take Nizoral. Nizoral may also interact with Dilantin and with anticoagulants, altering the effects of the medications.
- Known side effects may include headaches, sleeplessness, weakness or muscle pain. Occasional skin eruptions are seen.
- The most serious side effect is inflammation of the liver. This is neither toxic nor allergic. It usually occurs early in the course of treatment and is characterized by such symptoms as nausea, generally not feeling well, loss of appetite, jaundice, dark urine or abdominal pain. These effects are usually reversed quickly when the medication is stopped.

### Proper use:

Take your daily dose of Nizoral first thing in the morning. It will be better absorbed if you take it with food, preferably with an acidic juice or a carbonated beverage.

Nizoral is released in a concentrated form in your perspiration. For this reason, you should not shower for several hours after you take the medication. It is best to shower at night and take the medicine in the morning, or to shower early in the morning and take the medicine afterwards.

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