



Book Appointment



[Home](#) / [Know Your Pet](#) / [Fluconazole](#)

Fluconazole

Print Article

By Lauren R. Forsythe, PharmD, MBA, DICVP; Rania Gollakner, BS, DVM, MPH

What is fluconazole?



Fluconazole (brand name: Diflucan®) is an antifungal medication used to treat fungal

infections, especially infections in the brain or spinal cord.

Its use in cats, dogs, and small mammals to treat fungal infections is “off label” or “extra label”. Many drugs are commonly prescribed for off-label use in veterinary medicine.

"Many drugs are commonly prescribed for off-label use in veterinary medicine."

In these instances, follow your veterinarian’s directions and cautions carefully, as they may be significantly different from those on the label.

How is fluconazole given?

- Fluconazole is given by mouth in the form of a tablet or liquid suspension.
- It also comes in an injectable form that is administered in hospital by your veterinarian.
- Tablets and liquid can be given with or without food, but if your pet vomits or acts sick after taking the medication, give the medication with a small meal or treat.
- Do not skip doses and follow the dosing instructions carefully.

This medication can take up to a few weeks before full effects are noted, but gradual improvements are usually noticeable after a few days.

What if I miss giving my pet the medication?

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember, and then continue with the regular dosing schedule. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume the regular dosing schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

Are there any potential side effects?

Fluconazole may cause the following side effects:

- low appetite
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- soft stools
- liver toxicity can occur, especially with long-term use

This moderate-acting medication should stop working in a few days, although effects can be longer in pets with liver or kidney disease.

Are there any risk factors for this medication?

Fluconazole should **NOT BE USED** in pets that are allergic to it or similar medications.

Fluconazole should be **USED WITH CAUTION** in pets that:

- have liver or kidney disease
- are pregnant or nursing (benefits should outweigh the potential risks)

Are there any drug interactions I should be aware of?

Be sure to tell your veterinarian about any medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) that your pet is taking. While using fluconazole, the following medications should be used with caution:

- benzodiazepines
- cisapride
- corticosteroids
- cyclosporine
- diuretics (thiazides)
- fentanyl
- macrolide antibiotics
- methadone
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- sildenafil
- theophylline/aminophylline
- tricyclic antidepressants

Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Is any monitoring needed with this medication?

- Your veterinarian will monitor your pet to be sure that the medication is working.
- When using fluconazole long term, your veterinarian will monitor your pet for changes in liver function.
- At home, monitor your pet for any side effects and contact your veterinarian if any are noted.

How do I store fluconazole?

- Fluconazole tablets and the powder used to make the liquid suspension should be stored in a tight container, at room temperature (below 30°C or 86°F).
- Once the powder is mixed with water, it can be refrigerated, but avoid freezing it. Store between 5°C and 25°C (41°F-77°F).
- Discard any unused liquid medication after two weeks.

What should I do in case of emergency?

If you suspect an overdose or an adverse reaction to the medication, call your veterinary office immediately. If they are not available, follow their directions in contacting an emergency facility.

Share

Medications & Supplements



Find a Hospital

Locate a hospital near you

Learn more

Related Articles



Itraconazole

Itraconazole is given by mouth in the form of a capsule, tablet, or liquid to treat fungal infections in cats and for off-label treatment in dogs and small mammals. The most common side effects are anorexia, vomiting, liver toxicity, skin lesions, or limb and vessel swelling. It should not be used in pets with liver disease or low stomach acid production, and used...



Valley Fever in Dogs

Valley fever is an infection called Coccidioidomycosis, caused by the soil-dwelling fungus Coccidioides immitis. In the US, it is more commonly found in the southwestern states. Dogs are infected by inhaling spores released by disturbance of soil. These spores infect the lungs, forming spherules, and may migrate to different areas of the body,...



Ketoconazole Oral

Ketoconazole is an antifungal given by mouth in the form of a tablet, used off label to treat fungal infections in dogs, cats, small mammals, and reptiles. The most common side effects are vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite, and weight loss. Do not use in pets that are allergic to it and use extreme caution when using in cats or...

