

**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION****PrSandoz Voriconazole**  
Voriconazole tablets

This leaflet is part III of a three-part “Product Monograph” published when Sandoz Voriconazole was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about Sandoz Voriconazole. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor or your pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you personally and you should not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

**ABOUT THIS MEDICATION****What the medication is used for:**

Sandoz Voriconazole is prescribed by your doctor to treat certain fungal infections, specifically Aspergillus or Candida infections.

**What it does:**

Sandoz Voriconazole works by killing or interfering with the growth of fungi which helps stop the infection.

**When it should not be used:**

- If you are allergic to voriconazole or any of the other ingredients of Sandoz Voriconazole (see below, under “What are the nonmedicinal ingredients”).
- If you are taking other medication that must not be taken with Sandoz Voriconazole (see listing under “Interactions with this medication”).

**What is the medicinal ingredient of Sandoz Voriconazole and what dosage forms does it come in:**

Voriconazole tablets, 50 mg and 200 mg

**What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:**

Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, povidone, pregelatinized starch and a coating containing hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin

**Sandoz Voriconazole has been prescribed for you. Do not allow anyone else to take it.** This product should only be taken under the supervision of a doctor.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS****Serious Warnings and Precautions**

- Some medications should not be taken during Sandoz Voriconazole treatment (see listing under “Interactions with this medication”)
- Sandoz Voriconazole may cause irregular heartbeat and rarely cardiac arrest and death
- Sandoz Voriconazole may cause disturbances in vision
- Sandoz Voriconazole may cause liver problems
- Sandoz Voriconazole may cause severe skin reactions
- Sandoz Voriconazole may cause harm to the fetus in pregnant woman

**For more information, see warnings below and “Side Effects and what to do about them”**

**Take special care with Sandoz Voriconazole:**

Before being treated with Sandoz Voriconazole, tell your doctor if:

- you have any of the following conditions: history of heart disease, or an irregular heart beat.
- you have had any drug allergies including allergic reactions to other azoles.
- you are suffering from, or have ever suffered from liver disease.
- you are suffering from, or have ever suffered from kidney disease.
- you are already being treated with certain medication (See “Interactions with this medication”)
- you think you have galactose intolerance, Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption, please check with your doctor before starting to take Sandoz Voriconazole tablets since they contain lactose monohydrate.
- you are pregnant: Sandoz Voriconazole must not be taken during pregnancy, unless indicated by your doctor. Effective contraception must be used in women of child-bearing potential. Contact your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking Sandoz Voriconazole.
- you are breast-feeding: Sandoz Voriconazole must not be taken during breast feeding. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine while breast feeding.

While being treated with Sandoz Voriconazole:

- tell your doctor immediately if you develop a severe skin rash or blisters.
- strong sunlight should be avoided while being treated with Sandoz Voriconazole. Tell your doctor if you develop an increased sensitivity of skin to the sun.
- your doctor may wish to monitor the function of your liver and kidney by doing blood tests.

**INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

**Taking other medicines with Sandoz Voriconazole:**

It is very important that you inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have taken any other medicines, even those that are obtained without a prescription. Some medicines affect the way Sandoz Voriconazole works and dosage adjustments or monitoring may be necessary, such as for the following:

- Cyclosporine (a medicine used in transplant patients)
- Tacrolimus (a medicine used in transplant patients)
- Tricyclic antidepressants
- Antiarrhythmics (drugs that stabilize heart function such as procainamide, amiodarone, quinidine, sotalol)
- Antipsychotic drugs
- HIV protease inhibitors
- Macrolide antibiotics
- Methadone
- Oral contraceptives
- Short-acting opiates (e.g. alfentanil, sufentanil)
- Long-acting opiates (e.g. oxycodone, fentanyl)
- Some oral anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin, coumarin)
- Fluconazole (used for fungal infections)
- Everolimus (used for treating advanced kidney cancer and in transplant patients)
- Benzodiazepines (e.g. midazolam, triazolam, alprazolam)
- Calcium channel blockers (heart medications)
- Sulfonylureas (e.g. glyburide, glipizide)

Tell your doctor if you are taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) (used for treating pain and inflammation) including ibuprofen and diclofenac, as the NSAID dose may have to be adjusted.

The following list of medicines must not be taken during your course of Sandoz Voriconazole treatment:

- Terfenadine† (a medicine for allergy)
- Astemizole† (a medicine for allergy)
- Cisapride† (a medicine for stomach problems)
- Pimozide (a medicine for treating mental illness)
- Quinidine (a medicine for irregular heart beat)
- Rifampin (a medicine for treating tuberculosis)
- Carbamazepine (a medicine used to treat seizures)
- Long acting barbiturates (medicines for severe insomnia and seizures) such as phenobarbital
- Sirolimus (used in transplant patients)
- Rifabutin (a medicine for fungal infections)
- Ergot Alkaloids: ergotamine and dihydroergotamine (a medicine for migraines)
- Ritonavir (doses of 400mg twice daily or higher) and efavirenz (doses of 400mg once daily or higher) (medicines for the treatment of HIV)
- St John’s Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

† Not marketed in Canada

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**

**Usual adult dose:**

Your doctor will determine your dose depending on your weight and the type of infection (or suspected infection) you have.

Always take Sandoz Voriconazole exactly as directed by your doctor. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure. Never change the dose yourself.

Your doctor will prescribe a higher dose of Sandoz Voriconazole on your first day of treatment to more quickly obtain an effective blood level of the antibiotic in your body.

Infection	First 24 hours (2 doses 12 hours apart)		After the first 24 hours	
	40 kg or more	Less than 40 kg	40 kg or more	Less than 40 kg
Aspergillus	400 mg	200 mg	200 mg twice a day	100 mg
Candida		400 mg		twice a day

It has been shown that taking all doses at the appropriate times may greatly increase the effectiveness of your medicine.

Sandoz Voriconazole tablets must be taken at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Swallow the tablet whole with some water.

If you have liver disease, your doctor may prescribe a lower dose of Sandoz Voriconazole.

Your doctor may order periodic blood tests to monitor your liver function during Sandoz Voriconazole treatment.

Continue taking Sandoz Voriconazole until your doctor tells you to stop. Do not stop treatment early because your infection may not be cured. Patients with a weakened immune system or those with difficult infections may require long term treatment to prevent the infection from returning.

**Overdose:**

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Take your box or bottle of Sandoz Voriconazole tablets with you.

**Missed Dose:**

If you miss taking a dose of Sandoz Voriconazole, just take the next dose when it is due. Do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten dose.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Like all medicines, Sandoz Voriconazole can have side effects. If any side effects occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

The most commonly reported side effects are visual disturbances (blurring of vision, reduced vision, colour vision change and increased sensitivity to light), fever, rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, swelling of the extremities and stomach pains.

Other reported side effects include: changes in heart rate or rhythm, changes in blood pressure, blood cell changes, blood chemistry changes, dizziness, itchiness, weakness, back pain, chest pain, flu-like symptoms, facial swelling, hallucinations and other nervous symptoms, tingling, cough, breathing difficulty, hair loss, pain and irritation of the eyes, joint pain.

The following side effects have also been reported with the use of voriconazole: peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage) with symptoms such as a burning pain, tingling, numbness, sensitivity to touch and weakness, and hyponatremia (low levels of sodium in the blood) with symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, confusion, weakness, fatigue, cramps, decreased consciousness and seizures.

Check with your doctor immediately if chills, fever, flushing, sweating, muscle aches or pains, or other flu-like symptoms occur, especially if they occur shortly before, or together with a skin rash. Also, contact your doctor in case of a fast heartbeat, chest tightness or faintness. Very rarely, these effects may be the first signs of a serious reaction to this medication.

Contact your doctor if you suffer persistent abdominal pain and tenderness or vomiting as this may be a sign of a serious condition (pancreatitis).

If you develop bone pain during treatment, contact your doctor.

**Driving and using machines**

Sandoz Voriconazole may cause changes to vision, including blurring and/or photophobia (sensitivity to light). The majority of visual symptoms appeared to spontaneously resolve within 60 minutes. While being treated with Sandoz Voriconazole you must avoid potentially hazardous tasks, such as driving or operating machinery if you perceive any change in vision. You should not drive at night while taking Sandoz Voriconazole.

If any of these side effects persist or are troublesome, please tell your doctor.

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency medical attention
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Uncommon	Heart failure			✓
	Irregular heartbeat			✓
	Visual disturbances		✓	
	Severe skin reactions		✓	
	Liver problems (yellowing of the eyes or skin, itching, feeling more tired than usual or like you have the flu, stomach pains or nausea and vomiting)			✓

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking Sandoz Voriconazole contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

- Keep Sandoz Voriconazole out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store Sandoz Voriconazole tablets at room temperature (15°C to 30°C). Do not use after the expiry date stated on the label.

**Reporting Side Effects**

You can help improve the safe use of health products for Canadians by reporting serious and unexpected side effects to Health Canada. Your report may help to identify new side effects and change the product safety information.

**3 ways to report:**

- Online at MedEffect;
- By calling 1-866-234-2345 (toll-free);
- By completing a Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form and sending it by:
  - Fax to 1-866-678-6789 (toll-free), or
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
Health Canada, Postal Locator  
0701E  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels and the Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form are available at MedEffect.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

**MORE INFORMATION**

This document, plus the full Product Monograph prepared for health professionals, can be obtained by contacting the sponsor, Sandoz Canada Inc., at:  
1-800-361-3062

or by written request at:  
145, Jules-Léger  
Boucherville, (QC), Canada  
J4B 7K8

or by e-mail at:  
[medinfo@sandoz.com](mailto:medinfo@sandoz.com)

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