

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Flucol 2 mg/ml Solution for Infusion, 100 ml

fluconazole

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Flucol 2 mg/ml is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Flucol 2 mg/ml
3. How to use Flucol 2 mg/ml
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Flucol 2 mg/ml
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Flucol 2 mg/ml is and what it is used for

Flucol 2 mg/ml is one of a group of medicines called “antifungals”. The active substance is fluconazole.

Flucol 2 mg/ml is used to treat infections caused by fungi and may also be used to stop you from getting a candidal infection. The most common cause of fungal infections is a yeast called *Candida*.

Adults

You might be given this medicine by your doctor to treat the following types of fungal infections:

- Cryptococcal meningitis - a fungal infection in the brain
- Coccidioidomycosis - a disease of the bronchopulmonary system
- Infections caused by *Candida* and found in the blood stream, body organs (e.g. heart, lungs) or urinary tract
- Mucosal thrush - infection affecting the lining of the mouth, throat and denture sore mouth.

You might also be given Flucol 2 mg/ml to:

- stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back
- stop mucosal thrush from coming back
- stop you from getting an infection caused by *Candida* (if your immune system is weak and not working properly).

Children and adolescents (0 to 17 years old)

You might be given this medicine by your doctor to treat the following types of fungal infections:

- Mucosal thrush - infection affecting the lining of the mouth, throat
- Infections caused by *Candida* and found in the blood stream, body organs (e.g. heart, lungs) or urinary tract
- Cryptococcal meningitis – a fungal infection in the brain.

You might also be given Flucol 2 mg/ml to:

- stop you from getting an infection caused by *Candida* (if your immune system is weak and not working properly)

- stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back.

2. What you need to know before you use Flucol 2 mg/ml

Do not use Flucol 2 mg/ml

- if you are allergic to fluconazole, to other medicines you have taken to treat fungal infections or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6). The symptoms may include itching, reddening of the skin or difficulty in breathing.
- if you are taking astemizole, terfenadine (antihistamine medicines for allergies)
- if you are taking cisapride (used for stomach upsets)
- if you are taking pimozide (used for treating mental illness)
- if you are taking quinidine (used for treating heart arrhythmia)
- if you are taking erythromycin (an antibiotic for treating infections).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Flucol 2 mg/ml

- if you have liver or kidney problems
- if you suffer from heart disease, including heart rhythm problems
- if you have abnormal levels of potassium, calcium or magnesium in your blood
- if you develop severe skin reactions (itching, reddening of the skin or difficulty in breathing)
- if you develop signs of ‘adrenal insufficiency’ where the adrenal glands do not produce adequate amounts of certain steroid hormones such as cortisol (chronic, or long lasting fatigue, muscle weakness, loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal pain).

Other medicines and Flucol 2 mg/ml

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Tell your doctor **immediately** if you are taking astemizole, terfenadine (an antihistamine for treating allergies) or cisapride (used for stomach upsets) or pimozide (used for treating mental illness) or quinidine (used for treating heart arrhythmia) or erythromycin (an antibiotic for treating infections) as these should not be used with Flucol 2 mg/ml (see section: “Do not use Flucol 2 mg/ml”).

There are some medicines that may interact with Flucol 2 mg/ml. Make sure your doctor knows if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- rifampicin or rifabutin (antibiotics for infections)
- alfentanil, fentanyl (used as anaesthetic)
- amitriptyline, nortriptyline (used as anti-depressant)
- amphotericin B, voriconazole (anti-fungal)
- medicines that thin the blood to prevent blood clots (warfarin or similar medicines)
- benzodiazepines (midazolam, triazolam or similar medicines) used to help you sleep or for anxiety
- carbamazepine, phenytoin (used for treating fits)
- nifedipine, isradipine, amlodipine, felodipine and losartan (for hypertension - high blood pressure)
- olaparib (used for treating ovarian cancer)
- ciclosporin, everolimus, sirolimus or tacrolimus (to prevent transplant rejection)
- cyclophosphamide, vinca alkaloids (vincristine, vinblastine or similar medicines) used for treating cancer
- halofantrine (used for treating malaria)

- statins (atorvastatin, simvastatin and fluvastatin or similar medicines) used for reducing high cholesterol levels
- methadone (used for pain)
- celecoxib, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ibuprofen, lornoxicam, meloxicam, diclofenac (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID))
- oral contraceptives
- prednisone (steroid)
- zidovudine, also known as AZT; saquinavir (used in HIV-infected patients)
- medicines for diabetes such as chlorpropamide, glibenclamide, glipizide or tolbutamide
- theophylline (used to control asthma)
- tofacitinib (used for treating rheumatoid arthritis)
- vitamin A (nutritional supplement)
- ivacaftor (used for treating cystic fibrosis)
- amiodarone (used for treating uneven heartbeats ‘arrhythmias’)
- hydrochlorothiazide (a diuretic).

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

You should not use Flucol 2 mg/ml while you are pregnant unless your doctor has told you to. You can continue breast-feeding after taking a single dose of 150 mg Flucol 2 mg/ml. You should not breast-feed if you are using a repeated dose of Flucol 2 mg/ml.

Driving and using machines

When driving vehicles or using machines, it should be taken into account that occasionally dizziness or fits may occur.

Flucol 2 mg/ml contains sodium

This medicinal product contains 1416 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) per 800 mg dose. This is equivalent to 71% of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult. Talk to your pharmacist or doctor if you need Flucol 2 mg/ml daily for a prolonged period, especially if you have been advised to follow a low salt (sodium) diet.

3. How to use Flucol 2 mg/ml

This medicine will be given by your doctor or nurse as a slow injection (infusion) into your vein. Flucol 2 mg/ml is supplied as a solution. It will not be diluted further. There is more information for healthcare professionals in a section at the end of the leaflet.

The recommended doses of this medicine for different infections are below. Check with your doctor or nurse if you are not sure why you are being given Flucol 2 mg/ml.

Adults

Condition	Dose
To treat cryptococcal meningitis	400 mg on the first day then 200 mg to 400 mg once daily for 6 to 8 weeks or longer if needed. Sometimes doses are increased up to 800 mg.
To stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back	200 mg once daily until you are told to stop

Condition	Dose
To treat coccidioidomycosis	200 mg to 400 mg once daily from 11 months for up to 24 months or longer if needed. Sometimes doses are increased up to 800 mg.
To treat internal fungal infections caused by <i>Candida</i>	800 mg on the first day then 400 mg once daily until you are told to stop
To treat mucosal infections affecting the lining of mouth, throat and denture sore mouth	200 mg to 400 mg on the first day then 100 mg to 200 mg once daily until you are told to stop
To treat mucosal thrush – dose depends on where the infection is located	50 mg to 400 mg once daily for 7 to 30 days until you are told to stop
To stop mucosal infections affecting the lining of mouth, throat	100 mg to 200 mg once daily, or 200 mg 3 times a week, while you are at risk of getting an infection
To stop you from getting an infection caused by <i>Candida</i> (if your immune system is weak and not working properly)	200 mg to 400 mg once daily while you are at risk of getting an infection

Adolescents from 12 to 17 years old

Follow the dose prescribed by your doctor (either adults or children posology).

Children to 11 years old

The maximum dose for children is 400 mg daily.

The dose will be based on the child's weight in kilograms.

Condition	Daily dose
Mucosal thrush and throat infections caused by <i>Candida</i> – dose and duration depend on the severity of the infection and on where the infection is located	3 mg per kg of body weight (6 mg per kg of body weight might be given on the first day) once daily
Cryptococcal meningitis or internal fungal infections caused by <i>Candida</i>	6 mg to 12 mg per kg of body weight once daily
To stop cryptococcal meningitis from coming back	6 mg per kg of body weight once daily
To stop children from getting an infection caused by <i>Candida</i> (if their immune system is not working properly)	3 mg to 12 mg per kg of body weight once daily

Use in children 0 to 4 weeks of age

Use in children of 3 to 4 weeks of age:

- The same dose as above but given once every 2 days. The maximum dose is 12 mg per kg of body weight every 48 hours.

Use in children less than 2 weeks old:

- The same dose as above but given once every 3 days. The maximum dose is 12 mg per kg of body weight every 72 hours.

Elderly

The usual adult dose should be given unless you have kidney problems.

Patients with kidney problems

Your doctor may change your dose, depending on your kidney function.

If you use more Flucol 2 mg/ml than you should

If you are concerned that you may have been given too much Flucol 2 mg/ml, tell your doctor or nurse immediately. The symptoms of a possible overdose may include hearing, seeing, feeling and thinking things that are not real (hallucination and paranoid behaviour).

If you forget to use Flucol 2 mg/ml

As you will be given this medicine under close medical supervision, it is unlikely that a dose would be missed. However, tell your doctor or nurse if you think that a dose has been forgotten.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

A few people develop **allergic reactions** although serious allergic reactions are rare. If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. If you get any of the following symptoms, **tell your doctor immediately**:

- sudden wheezing, difficulty in breathing or tightness in the chest
- swelling of eyelids, face or lips
- itching all over the body reddening of the skin or itchy red spots
- skin rash
- severe skin reactions such as a rash that causes blistering (this can affect the mouth and tongue).

Flucol 2 mg/ml may affect your liver. The signs of liver problems include:

- tiredness
- loss of appetite
- vomiting
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes (jaundice).

If any of these happen, stop using Flucol 2 mg/ml and **tell your doctor immediately**.

Other side effects:

Additionally, if any of the following side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist or nurse.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) are:

- headache
- stomach discomfort, vomiting, diarrhoea, feeling sick
- increases in blood tests of liver function
- rash.

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people) are:

- reduction in red blood cells which can make skin pale and cause weakness or breathlessness
- decreased appetite
- inability to sleep, feeling drowsy
- fit, dizziness, sensation of spinning, tingling, pricking or numbness, changes in sense of taste
- constipation, difficult digestion, wind, dry mouth

- muscle pain
- liver damage and yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- wheals, blistering (hives), itching, increased sweating
- tiredness, general feeling of being unwell, fever.

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people) are:

- lower than normal white blood cells that help defend against infections and blood cells that help to stop bleeding
- red or purple discoloration of the skin which may be caused by low platelet count, other blood cell changes
- blood chemistry changes (high blood levels of cholesterol, fats)
- low blood potassium
- shaking
- abnormal electrocardiogram (ECG), change in heart rate or rhythm
- liver failure
- allergic reactions (sometimes severe), including widespread blistering rash and skin peeling, severe skin reactions, swelling of the lips or face
- hair loss.

Frequency not known, but may occur (cannot be estimated from the available data):

- hypersensitivity reaction with skin rash, fever, swollen glands, increase in a type of white blood cell (eosinophilia) and inflammation of internal organs (liver, lungs, heart, kidneys and large intestine) (Drug Reaction or rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)).

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 HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Flucol 2 mg/ml

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and the label of the vial after "EXP". The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not refrigerate or freeze.

Only clear solutions practically free from particles should be used.

This medicinal product is for single use. Once opened, any unused infusion should be discarded. For storage conditions of the reconstituted product see end of this leaflet.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Flucol 2 mg/ml contains

The active substance is fluconazole.

Each ml solution for infusion contains 2 mg of fluconazole.

Each vial of 100 ml solution for infusion contains 200 mg of fluconazole.

The other ingredients are sodium chloride, hydrochloric acid 25% (for pH adjustment), water for injections.

What Flucol 2 mg/ml looks like and contents of the pack

The solution for infusion is a clear, colourless solution with no visible particles.

Clear Type I Ph. Eur. glass infusion vial closed with brombutyl rubber stopper and a polypropylene “flip off” closure in a carton.

Pack sizes:

1, 5, 7, 14 and 20 vials containing 50 ml, 100 ml or 200 ml solution

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturers

Marketing Authorisation Holder

Rowex Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Manufacturers

Salutas Pharma GmbH, Otto-von-Guericke-Allee 1, 39179 Barleben. Germany.

Rowa Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Az. Chim. Riun. Angelini Francesco ACRAF SPA, Via Vecchia Del Pinocchio, 22, 60100 – Ancona, Italy.

This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:

Germany	Fluconazol HEXAL® 2 mg/ml Infusionslösung
Ireland	Flucol 2 mg/ml Solution for Infusion, 100 ml
Italy	Fluconazolo Angelini 2 mg/ml soluzione per infusione endovenosa
Netherlands	FLUCONAZOL SANDOZ INFUUS 200 MG/100 ML, OPLOSSING VOOR INTRAVENEUZE INFUSIE
Sweden	Fluconazol HEXAL 2 mg/ml infusionsvätska, lösning

This leaflet was last revised in 08/2018.

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

Intravenous infusion should be administered at a rate not exceeding 10 ml/minute. Flucol 2 mg/ml is formulated in sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%) solution for infusion, each 200 mg (100 ml bottle) containing 15 mmol each of Na⁺ and Cl⁻. Because Flucol 2 mg/ml is available as a dilute sodium chloride solution, in patients requiring sodium or fluid restriction, consideration should be given to the rate of fluid administration.

Fluconazole intravenous infusion is compatible with the following administration fluids:

- a) Dextrose 20%
- b) Ringer's solution
- c) Hartmann's solution
- d) Potassium chloride in dextrose
- e) Sodium bicarbonate 4.2%
- f) Sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%)

Flucol 2 mg/ml may be infused through an existing line with one of the above listed fluids. Although no specific incompatibilities have been noted, mixing with any other medicinal products prior to infusion is not recommended.

The solution for infusion is for single use only.

Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 48 hours at room temperature in each of the infusion solutions listed above.

From a microbiological point of view, the dilutions should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2 to 8°C, unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

In case of Ringer's solution, storage below 25°C is recommended. Dilutions with Ringer's solution should not be refrigerated.

The dilution is to be made under aseptic conditions. The solution is to be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. The solution should only be used if the solution is clear and free from particles.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements