

# VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ®

Voriconazole Tablets

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

### What VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ is used for

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ is used to treat fungal and yeast infections such as:

- invasive aspergillosis, a fungal infection caused by a fungus called *Aspergillus*, which usually begins in the respiratory tract (in the nose, sinuses or lungs). *Aspergillus* is harmless in most healthy people; however, in people with poor immune systems (such as people who have had organ transplants and people with cancer or HIV/AIDS) invasive aspergillosis can be serious and spread to other tissues and organs.
- serious *Candida* infections, including *Candida* infections of the oesophagus (food pipe or gullet) and those that have spread into the blood stream or to other parts of the body
- serious fungal infections caused by *Scedosporium* species and *Fusarium* species
- other serious fungal infections in patients who do not respond to, or cannot tolerate, other antifungal medicines.

Voriconazole Sandoz is also used to prevent invasive fungal infections in patients who are at risk of developing such infections.

It contains the active ingredient voriconazole. Voriconazole belongs to a group of medicines called triazole antifungals.

It works by preventing the growth of fungal and yeast organisms causing your infection.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ

*When you must not use it*

**Do not take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ if you have an allergy to:**

- voriconazole, the active ingredient, or to any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet under Product Description

- any other similar medicines such as itraconazole, fluconazole, posaconazole or ketoconazole (not all brands given).

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin.

**Do not take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ if you are taking any of the following medicines:**

- cisapride, a medicine used to treat stomach problems
- pimozide, a medicine used to treat mental illness
- quinidine, a medicine used to treat irregular heartbeat
- rifampicin, a medicine used to treat tuberculosis and other infections
- carbamazepine, a medicine used to treat seizures
- long-acting barbiturates such as phenobarbitone, medicines used to treat severe insomnia and seizures
- rifabutin, an antibiotic
- ergotamine or dihydroergotamine, medicines used to treat migraine
- sirolimus, a medicine used in transplant patients
- efavirenz (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 400mg or more once a day
- ritonavir (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 400mg or more twice a day
- St John's Wort (a herbal medicine).

**VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ should not be given to a child under the age of 2 years.**

Safety and effectiveness in children younger than 2 years has not been established.

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

**If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.**

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor first.**

*Before you start to take it*

**Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any foods, preservatives or dyes or any other medicines, especially antifungal medicines such as itraconazole, fluconazole, posaconazole or ketoconazole (not all brands given).**

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- heart problems
- any problems affecting your kidneys
- any problems affecting your liver. If you have liver disease your doctor may prescribe a lower dose
- recent chemotherapy or stem cell transplant.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.**

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ should not be taken during pregnancy, unless indicated by your doctor. Effective contraception should be used in women of childbearing potential. Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

**Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding.** VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ should not be taken whilst breastfeeding, unless indicated by your doctor. It is not known if the active ingredient voriconazole passes into breast milk. Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ.**

*Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines should not be taken with VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ. These include:

- cisapride, a medicine used for treating stomach problems
- pimozide, a medicine used to treat mental illness
- quinidine, a medicine for irregular heartbeat
- rifampicin, a medicine used to treat tuberculosis and other infections
- carbamazepine, a medicine used to treat seizures
- long-acting barbiturates such as phenobarbitone, medicines used to treat severe insomnia and seizures
- rifabutin, an antibiotic
- ergotamine or dihydroergotamine, medicines used to treat migraine
- sirolimus a medicine used in transplant patients
- efavirenz (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 400mg or more once a day
- ritonavir (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 400mg or more twice a day
- St John's Wort, (a herbal medicine).

Some medicines and VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ may interfere with each other. These include (not all brands given):

- efavirenz (Stocrin) (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses below 400mg once a day
- ritonavir (a medicine used to treat HIV infection) in doses of 100mg twice a day
- warfarin, a medicine used to stop blood clots
- everolimus, a medicine used to treat cancer
- fluconazole, a medicine used to treat fungal infections
- phenytoin, a medicine used to treat epilepsy
- ciclosporin, a medicine used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat

certain problems with the immune system

- sulphonylureas, medicines used to treat diabetes such as glibenclamide, gliclazide and glipizide
- some antihistamines, medicines used to treat hayfever, allergic skin reactions, itching
- theophylline, a medicine used to treat asthma
- benzodiazepines, medicines used to treat insomnia or anxiety
- statins, medicines used for lowering cholesterol
- tacrolimus, a medicine used in patients who have had a liver or kidney transplant
- indinavir and some other medicines used to treat HIV infection
- omeprazole, a medicine used to treat indigestion, reflux and stomach or duodenal ulcers
- methadone (used to treat heroin addiction)
- oral contraceptives (the Pill)
- vincristine, vinblastine or vinorelbine, medicines used in treating cancer
- strong pain killers such as alfentanil, fentanyl and oxycodone
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, medicines used to treat pain and inflammation such as ibuprofen and diclofenac.

These medicines may be affected by VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

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## How to take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ

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**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

### *How much to take*

Your doctor will tell you how much to take depending on your weight.

#### **Adults**

##### **Treatment of invasive fungal infections**

The usual dose of VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ tablets in adults weighing 40 kg and greater is 400 mg (two 200 mg tablets twice a day) for the first day and then 200mg to 300 mg twice a day thereafter.

In adults weighing less than 40 kg the dose of VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ tablets is halved.

The usual dose is 6 mg/kg every 12 hours for the first day, given by injection\*. The dose is then adjusted to 4mg/kg every 12 hours by injection\* or, in adults weighing 40 kg and greater, one 200 mg tablet twice a day.

#### **Children**

**VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ should not be given to a child under the age of 2 years.**

Your doctor will determine the dose of VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ required for your child.

Depending on how serious the infection is and how your child reacts to the medicine, your doctor may increase or decrease the dose.

#### **Adolescents (12-16 years of age)**

Adolescents aged 12-16 years of age are usually given the same dose as adults.

#### *How to take it*

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ needs to be taken regularly to be effective.

Take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ tablets at least one hour before or one hour after a meal.

Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.

#### *When to take it*

**Take your medicine regularly at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

#### *How long to take it*

The length of time you take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ will depend on the type of infection you have.

If you have a weakened immune system or a difficult infection, you may need long-term treatment to prevent the infection from returning.

**Continue taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ for as long as your doctor tells you. Do not stop taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ because you are feeling better.**

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, the infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

#### *If you forget to take it*

If you forget to take one dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

#### *If you take too much (overdose)*

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone Australia 13 11 26 or New Zealand 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include upset stomach, diarrhoea, headache and sensitivity to light.

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## While you are using VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ

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### *Things you must do*

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

**If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ.**

**It may affect other medicines used during surgery.**

**Tell your doctor immediately if you develop a rash or blisters while taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ.**

If this rash worsens, VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ may need to be stopped.

**Avoid going out in the sun for long periods of time while you are taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ.**

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ can cause sensitivity to light.

**Tell your doctor if you notice any changes to your skin while you are taking Voriconazole Sandoz.**

**If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.**

Make sure you follow your doctor's instructions and keep all appointments, including blood tests.

Your doctor should monitor the function of your liver and kidneys using blood tests. If you have liver disease, your doctor might lower your dose of VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ or stop your VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ treatment. Your doctor might also monitor the function of your pancreas.

**If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine.**

It may interfere with the results of some tests.

**If you are a woman of child-bearing age, you should avoid becoming pregnant while taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ. If you become pregnant while taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ, tell your doctor immediately.**

### *Things you must not do*

**Do not take VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give your medicine to anyone else even if they have the same condition as you.**

**Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.**

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, the infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

### *Things to be careful of*

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ affects you.**

You may experience changes to your vision, such as blurriness, colour changes or uncomfortable sensitivity to light.

**If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous. Do not drive at night.**

**Children should be careful when riding bicycles or climbing.**

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### Side effects

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ.**

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of possible side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- changes to your vision, such as blurred vision, colour changes or sensitivity to light
- irregular heartbeat
- nausea or feeling sick, vomiting
- headache
- stomach pain, indigestion, diarrhoea
- back pain in middle or upper back
- swelling of the arms or legs
- rash
- changes to your skin, such as skin eruptions or small lumps on the skin.

**If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- asthma, wheezing, shortness of breath
- sudden or severe itching, skin rash, hives or blisters
- fainting, seizures or fits
- severe skin reaction such as painful red areas, large blisters, flaking of your skin, and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals
- yellowing of the skin or eyes, also called jaundice
- signs of frequent or worsening infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- blood in urine
- signs of kidney failure such as tiredness, lack of appetite and reduced or greatly increased amount of urine
- convulsions, fits.

These may be signs of a serious allergic reaction or side effect. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are rare.

**Tell your doctor if you notice any other side effects.**

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

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### After using VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ

#### Storage

**Keep your medicine in the original container.**

If you take it out of the original container it may not keep well.

**Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.**

**Do not store VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

#### Disposal

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

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### Product description

#### What it looks like

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ comes in two types of tablets:

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ 50 mg - White to off-white, round, biconvex, film coated tablets with '50' debossed on one side and plain on other side.

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ 200 mg - White to off-white, biconvex, capsule shaped film coated tablets with '200' debossed on one side and plain on other side.

Available in blister packs of 56 tablets.

*Not all strengths or presentations may be marketed.*

#### Ingredients

##### Active Ingredients:

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ 50mg - 50 mg voriconazole

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ 200 mg - 200 mg voriconazole

##### Inactive Ingredients:

- lactose monohydrate
- pregelatinised maize starch
- croscarmellose sodium
- povidone
- magnesium stearate
- hypromellose
- titanium dioxide
- triacetin.

#### Supplier

Sandoz Pty Ltd  
ABN 60 075 449 553  
54 Waterloo Road  
Macquarie Park, NSW 2113  
Australia  
Tel: 1800 726 369  
Novartis New Zealand Ltd  
PO Box 99102  
Newmarket, Auckland 1149  
New Zealand  
Tel: 0800 354 335

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Australian Registration Numbers

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ 50 mg tablets:  
AUST R 207786 (blisters)

VORICONAZOLE SANDOZ 200 mg  
tablets: AUST R 207785 (blisters)

\*Available from other brand (s).