Fenticonazole for vaginal thrush (Gynoxin)

Vaginal thrush is a common problem affecting women.
Fenticonazole is an antifungal medicine. Side-effects are unlikely but may include mild skin irritation or itching.
Remember to complete the full course of treatment.

About fenticonazole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of medicine</th>
<th>An antifungal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Used for</td>
<td>Vaginal thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also called</td>
<td>Gynoxin®</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available as</td>
<td>Cream and vaginal capsules</td>
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Many women have an occasional bout of vaginal thrush. It is due to an infection with a yeast fungus called Candida spp. Most cases of thrush are caused by the yeast called Candida albicans but other types of Candida spp. can also cause thrush. Common symptoms of vaginal thrush are itching, soreness, and redness around the outside of the vagina and a thick, creamy white, odourless vaginal discharge. Fenticonazole works by killing the yeast fungus causing the infection.

There are two types of fenticonazole product available to treat vaginal thrush - a cream and vaginal capsules. The cream is inserted high into the vagina using an applicator. Vaginal capsules are inserted into the vagina in a similar way to a pessary. You may be prescribed either of these products to treat the infection.

Before using fenticonazole

Some medicines are not suitable for people with certain conditions, and sometimes a medicine may only be used if extra care is taken. For these reasons, before you start using fenticonazole it is important that your doctor knows:

- If you are pregnant.
- If you are under 18 years of age.
- If you are taking any other medicines. This includes any medicines you are taking which are available to buy without a prescription, as well as herbal and complementary medicines.
- If you have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine.

How to use fenticonazole

- Before you start the treatment, read the manufacturer's printed information leaflet from inside the pack. It will give you more information about how to use the fenticonazole preparation you have been given.
- If you have been prescribed Gynoxin® as a vaginal capsule, gently push one into your vagina at bedtime. Insert it as high as possible using your finger. Your doctor will have told you whether to do this on one night only, or on three consecutive nights. Vaginal capsules are only for use in the vagina - they must not be swallowed.
- If you have been prescribed Gynoxin® cream, you will be asked to use the cream twice a day (in the morning and the evening) for three days. Use the applicator provided to insert 5 gram of cream high into your vagina. To do this, attach the applicator to the tube. Squeeze the cream into the applicator until it is full. Remove the applicator from the tube, and then gently insert the cream-filled end of the applicator into your vagina as high as it is comfortable for you. Push the plunger to release the cream into your vagina. Remove the applicator and wash it with warm water and soap, ready for your next dose.

Getting the most from your treatment

- Use fenticonazole exactly as your doctor tells you to. Remember to complete the course of treatment as this will help to prevent the infection from coming back.
- Fenticonazole can damage the latex in condoms and diaphragms so do not rely on these forms of contraception. Use an alternative method of contraception (or do not have sex) while you are using fenticonazole. Please also keep in mind that having vaginal sex while you have thrush could infect your partner.
If your symptoms do not improve despite using fenticonazole, go back to see your doctor for further advice. An alternative treatment could be more suitable for you.

Can fenticonazole cause problems?
Fenticonazole is unlikely to cause any serious side-effects, although it can cause mild irritation and itching. If you experience any other symptoms, speak with your doctor or pharmacist for further advice.

How to store fenticonazole
- Keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct heat and light.

Important information about all medicines

Further reading & references
- Manufacturer's PIL, Gynoxin® 200 mg and 600 mg vaginal capsules; Recordati Pharmaceuticals Limited, The electronic Medicines Compendium. Dated July 2010.

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