

# Fluconazole (Diflucan)

**Indication(s):** Topical Fungal Infections

**Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to fluconazole.

**Precautions:** Do not use during pregnancy unless benefit outweighs the potential risk to the fetus as there is increased risk of spontaneous abortion and congenital abnormalities, particularly in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester.

**Drug Interactions:** ↑ benzodiazepine conc (midazolam); HCTZ ↑ fluconazole conc; Reports of QT Prolongation – Azole class effect – Review patient's current pharmacotherapy and comorbidities (cardiac) before supplying.

**Adverse effects:** Headache (12.9%); Nausea (6.7%); Abdominal pain (5.6%); Diarrhea (2.7%); Dyspepsia (1.3%); Dizziness (1.3%); Taste perversion (1.3%). Rarely, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction have been reported. (< 1%) Occasional allergic reactions including pruritus and urticaria.

**Pharmacology:** Inhibits fungal sterol synthesis which detrimentally alters the fungal cell membrane. Increased membrane permeability results in growth inhibition and cell death. T<sub>1/2</sub> ~ 30hr (range: 20-50hr) after oral administration.

**Administration and dosage:** 150mg PO once weekly X 4 weeks for a fungal skin infection that is too extensive for topical treatment.