

Clotrimazole cream

L-RET[®]

Description:

Clotrimazole (brand name **L-RET**) is an antifungal medication commonly used in the treatment of fungal infections of both humans and animals such as vaginal yeast infections, oral thrush, and ringworm. It is also used to treat athlete's foot and jock itch. It prevents growth of several types of fungi by preventing production of the membranes that surround fungal cells.

Mechanism of Action

Clotrimazole interacts with yeast 14- α demethylase, a cytochrome P-450 enzyme that converts lanosterol to ergosterol, an essential component of the membrane. In this way, clotrimazole inhibits ergosterol synthesis, resulting in increased cellular permeability. Clotrimazole may also inhibit endogenous respiration, interact with membrane phospholipids, inhibit the transformation of yeasts to mycelial forms and the uptake of purine, impair triglyceride and/or phospholipid biosynthesis, and inhibit the movement of calcium and potassium ions across the cell membrane by blocking the ion transport pathway known as the Gardos channel.

Indications:

Clotrimazole is used for the treatment of local fungal infections due to *Candida albicans* (for example, vaginal yeast infections or oral thrush), tinea versicolor, tinea pedis ("athlete's foot"), tinea cruris ("jock itch") or tinea corporis.

Directions for use:

Clotrimazole comes as a cream to apply to the skin. Follow the directions on the package or your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Use clotrimazole exactly as directed. Do not use more or less of it or use it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

To use the topical cream, lotion, or solution, thoroughly clean the infected area, allow it to dry, and then gently rub the medication in until most of it disappears. Use just enough medication to cover the affected area. You should wash your hands after applying the medication.

Continue to use this medication until the full-prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may allow fungus to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

If you obtain the clotrimazole skin cream, lotion, or solution without a prescription, use it for 4 weeks for athlete's foot and 2 weeks for jock itch or body ringworm. If your symptoms do not improve by that time, stop using the medication and consult either a pharmacist or doctor.

Side effects:

Clotrimazole may cause side effects. If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

The most commonly noted side effects associated with clotrimazole are local redness, stinging, blistering, peeling, swelling, itching, hives, or burning at the area of application.

- itching
- burning
- irritation
- redness
- swelling
- stomach pain
- fever

Precautions:

Before using clotrimazole,

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to clotrimazole or any other drugs.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription drugs you are taking, especially antibiotic medications and vitamins.
- Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had liver disease, problems with your immune system, human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), diabetes, or a history of alcohol abuse.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. If you become pregnant while using clotrimazole, call your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

NOTES: Do not share this medication with others. This medication has been prescribed for your current condition only. Do not use it later for another infection unless told to do so by your doctor. A different medication may be necessary in those cases. Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., liver function tests) may be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Clotrimazole is very poorly absorbed into the blood and the body after application to the skin or the vagina. Studies in women in their second or third trimesters of pregnancy have demonstrated no ill effects. No human data is available in pregnant women during their first trimester.

There are no adequate studies in women for determining infant risk when using this medication during breastfeeding. Weigh the potential benefits against the potential risks before taking this medication while breastfeeding.

STORAGE:

Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Keep out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture. DO NOT FREEZE.

Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed.

Presentation: Tube of 15 gm

For further information, please contact:

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