SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Canesten Thrush Combi Pessary & External Cream 500mg / 2% w/w pessary & cream

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Canesten Thrush Pessary contains Clotrimazole 500mg.

Canesten Thrush External Cream contains Clotrimazole 2% w/w.

Excipient with known effect:
Cream: cetostearyl alcohol

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Pessary and cream

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

The pessary is recommended for the treatment of candidal vaginitis.

The cream is recommended for the treatment of candidal vulvitis. It should be used as an adjunct to treatment of candidal vaginitis.

These products should only be used if candidal vulvovaginitis (thrush) was previously diagnosed by a doctor.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adults

One pessary should be inserted into the vagina at night. Using the applicator provided, the pessary should be inserted as high as possible into the vagina. This is best achieved when lying back with legs bent up.

Canesten pessaries need moisture in the vagina in order to dissolve completely, otherwise undissolved pieces of the pessary might crumble out of the vagina. Pieces of undissolved pessary may be noticed by women who experience vaginal dryness. To help prevent this it is important that the pessary is inserted as high as possible in to the vagina at bedtime.

Treatment during the menstrual period should be avoided due to the risk of the pessary being washed out by the menstrual flow. The treatment should be finished before the onset of menstruation.

Do not use tampons, intravaginal douches, spermicides or other vaginal products while using this product.

The cream should be thinly applied to the vulva and surrounding area, two or three times daily and rubbed in gently.

Treatment with the cream should be continued until symptoms of the infection disappear. However, if after concomitant treatment of the vaginitis, the symptoms do not improve within seven days, the patient should consult a physician.

Vaginal intercourse should be avoided in case of vaginal infection and while using this product because the partner could become infected.

Children

Not for use in children under 16.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to clotrimazole or any of the other excipients listed in section 6.1.
Do not use to treat nail or scalp infections.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

This product contains cetostearyl alcohol, which may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).

Before using Canesten Thrush Combi Pessary & External Cream, medical advice must be sought if any of the following are applicable:-

- more than two infections of candidal vaginitis in the last 6 months.
- previous history of sexually transmitted disease or exposure to partner with sexually transmitted disease.
- pregnancy or suspected pregnancy.

- aged under 16 or over 60 years.
- known hypersensitivity to imidazoles or other vaginal antifungal products.

The pessary and cream should not be used if the patient has any of the following symptoms where upon medical advice should be sought:-

- irregular vaginal bleeding.
- abnormal vaginal bleeding or a blood-stained discharge.
- vulval or vaginal ulcers, blisters or sores.
- lower abdominal pain or dysuria.
- any adverse events such as redness, irritation or swelling associated with the treatment.
- fever or chills.
- nausea or vomiting.
- diarrhoea.
- foul smelling vaginal discharge.

If no improvement in symptoms is seen after 7 days the patient should consult their doctor.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Laboratory tests have suggested that, when used together, this product may cause damage to latex contraceptives. Consequently the effectiveness of such contraceptives may be reduced. Patients should be advised to use alternative precautions for at least five days after using this product.

Concomitant medication with vaginal clotrimazole and oral tacrolimus (FK-506; immunosuppressant) might lead to increased tacrolimus plasma levels and similarly with sirolimus. Patients should thus be closely monitored for signs and symptoms of tacrolimus or sirolimus overdosage, if necessary by determination of the respective plasma levels.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Fertility:

No human studies of the effects of clotrimazole on fertility have been performed, however, animal studies have not demonstrated any effects of the drug on fertility.

Pregnancy:

There is a limited amount of data from the use of clotrimazole in pregnant women. Animal studies with clotrimazole have shown reproductive toxicity at high oral doses

(see section 5.3). At the low systemic exposures of clotrimazole following vaginal treatment, harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity are not predicted.

Clotrimazole can be used during pregnancy, but only under the supervision of a physician or midwife.

During pregnancy the pessary should be inserted without using an applicator.

Lactation:

Available pharmacodynamic/toxicological data in animals have shown excretion of clotrimazole/metabolites in milk after intravenous administration (see section 5.3). A risk to the suckling child cannot be excluded. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from clotrimazole therapy taking into account the benefit of breast feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

The medication has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive or use machinery.

4.8 Undesirable effects

As the listed undesirable effects are based on spontaneous reports, assigning accurate frequency of occurrence for each is not possible.

Immune system disorders:
allergic reaction (syncope, hypotension, dyspnea, urticaria, pruritus)

Canesten Pessary
Reproductive system and breast disorders:
genital peeling, pruritus, rash, oedema, erythema, discomfort, burning, irritation, pelvic pain, vaginal haemorrhage.

Gastrointestinal disorders:
abdominal pain.

Canesten Cream
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: blisters, discomfort/pain, oedema, erythema, irritation, peeling/exfoliation, pruritus, rash, stinging/burning.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal

product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

4.9 Overdose

No risk of acute intoxication is seen as it is unlikely to occur following a single vaginal or dermal application of an overdose (application over a large area under conditions favourable to absorption) or inadvertent oral ingestion. There is no specific antidote.

However, in the event of accidental oral ingestion, routine measures such as gastric lavage should be performed only if clinical symptoms of overdose become apparent (e.g. dizziness, nausea or vomiting). Gastric lavage should be carried out only if the airway can be protected adequately.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Gynaecological antiinfectives and antiseptics – imidazole derivatives

ATC Code: G01A F02

Mechanism of Action
Clotrimazole acts against fungi by inhibiting ergosterol synthesis. Inhibition of ergosterol synthesis leads to structural and functional impairment of the fungal cytoplasmic membrane.

Clotrimazole has a broad antimycotic spectrum of action in vitro and in vivo, which includes dermatophytes, yeasts, moulds, etc.

Under appropriate test conditions, the MIC values for these types of fungi are in the region of less than 0.062 – 8 µg/ml substrate. The mode of action of clotrimazole is fungistatic or fungicidal depending on the concentration of clotrimazole at the site of infection. In-vitro activity is limited to proliferating fungal elements; fungal spores are only slightly sensitive.

In addition to its antimycotic action, clotrimazole also acts on gram-positive microorganisms (Streptococci/Staphylococci/Gardnerella vaginalis) and gram-negative microorganisms (Bacteroides). It has no effect on lactobacilli.

In vitro, clotrimazole inhibits the multiplication of Corynebacteria and gram-positive cocci – with the exception of Enterococci – in concentrations of 0.5 – 10 µg/ml substrate.

Primarily resistant variants of sensitive fungal species are very rare; the development of secondary resistance by sensitive fungi has so far only been observed in very isolated cases under therapeutic conditions.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Pharmacokinetic investigations after vaginal application have shown that only a small amount of clotrimazole (3 – 10% of the dose) is absorbed. Due to the rapid hepatic metabolism of absorbed clotrimazole into pharmacologically inactive metabolites the resulting peak plasma concentrations of clotrimazole after vaginal application of a 500mg dose were less than 10 ng/ml, reflecting that clotrimazole applied intravaginally does not lead to measurable systemic effects or side effects.

Pharmacokinetic investigations after dermal application have shown that clotrimazole is practically not absorbed from the intact or inflamed skin into the human blood circulation. The resulting peak serum concentrations of clotrimazole were below the detection limit of 0.001 µg/ml, reflecting that clotrimazole applied topically does not lead to measurable systemic effects or side effects.

5.3. Preclinical Safety Data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on studies of repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity.

Clotrimazole was not teratogenic in reproductive toxicity studies in mice, rats and rabbits. In rats high oral doses were associated with maternal toxicity, embryotoxicity, reduced fetal weights and decreased pup survival.

In rats clotrimazole and/or its metabolites were secreted into milk at levels higher than in plasma by a factor of 10 to 20 at 4 hrs after administration, followed by a decline to a factor of 0.4 by 24 hrs.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

The pessary contains:

Lactose monohydrate

Microcrystalline cellulose
Lactic acid
Maize starch
Crospovidone
Calcium lactate pentahydrate
Magnesium stearate
Colloidal anhydrous silica
Hypromellose

The cream contains:

Sorbitan stearate
Polysorbate 60
Cetyl palmitate
Cetostearyl alcohol
Octyldodecanol
Benzyl alcohol
Purified Water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

36 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Canesten 500mg Pessary - Do not store above 25°C.

Canesten External Cream - Do not store above 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

The pessary is packed into a blister consisting of 25µm PA (Polyamide) / 45µm Soft Aluminium / 60µm PVC and 20µm Hard Aluminium / 7 GSM HSL (Heat sealing lacquer) and is supplied with an applicator

The cream is filled into Aluminium tubes (10g) with internal lacquer coating, latex stopper and HDPE screw top.

The blister, an applicator and tube are enclosed in a cardboard carton.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Bayer plc
400 South Oak Way
Reading
RG2 6AD
United Kingdom

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 00010/0300

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

18 March 2004

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

15/06/2018