PACKAGE INSERT **DATE: 31 MAY 2013**

SCHEDULING STATUS: S1

PROPRIETARY NAME AND DOSAGE FORM:

CANESTEN®
Topical Cream

COMPOSITION:

Each gram contains: Clotrimazole 10 mg/ g

Inactive ingredients: Benzyl alcohol 2 % (as preservative), cetostearyl alcohol, cetyl ester wax, octyldodecanol, polysorbate 60, sorbitan monostearate and purified water.

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

A 20.2.2 Fungicides

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:

Pharmacodynamic properties

- Clotrimazole acts against fungi by inhibiting ergosterol synthesis.
- Inhibition of ergosterol synthesis leads to structural and functional impairment of the 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 0.062-8.0 μg/ml substrate.
- The mode of action of clotrimazole is primarily 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).
- In vitro sensitivity does not necessarily imply clinical sensitivity.

Pharmacokinetic properties

- Pharmacokinetic investigations after dermal application have shown that clotrimazole is minimally 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, suggesting that clotrimazole applied topically on the skin is unlikely to lead to measurable systemic effects or side effects.

Summary of clinical studies

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential and toxicity to reproduction and development.

INDICATIONS:

The range of indications is:

1. All dermatomycoses due to dermatophytes (e.g. *Trichophyton* species).
2. All dermatomycoses due to yeasts (e.g. *Candida* species).
3. Dermatomycoses due to moulds and other fungi.
4. Skin diseases with secondary infection by these fungi.

The dermatomycoses mentioned under 1 - 4 include among others:

1. Mycoses of the skin and skin folds, (e.g. fungal infections of the groin, perineum, axillae, Dhobies' or jock itch and barber's itch.)
2. Ringworm.
3. Interdigital mycoses e.g. athlete's foot.

4. Candida vulvitis (vulval thrush).
5. Candida balanitis, (thrush of the glans penis).
6. Pityriasis (Tinea) versicolor.
7. Erythrasma.
8. Paronychias, associated with nail mycoses, (fungal infections of the tissues adjacent to the nail of a finger or toe).

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Hypersensitivity to clotrimazole and/or cetostearyl alcohol or any of the ingredients of CANESTEN® Topical Cream.

CANESTEN® Topical Cream is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy (See pregnancy and lactation).

During treatment with CANESTEN® Topical Cream breastfeeding should be discontinued.

WARNINGS:

- Keep medicine out of reach of children.
- Avoid contact with the eyes.
- Do not swallow.
- For external use only.
- CANESTEN® Topical Cream may reduce the effectiveness and safety of latex products such as condoms and diaphragms when applied on the genital area (women: labia and adjacent area of the vulva; Men: prepuce and glans of the penis). The effect is temporary and occurs only during treatment.
- Cetostearyl alcohol may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis)
- The use of CANESTEN® Topical Cream should be avoided during the first trimester of pregnancy and lactation.

INTERACTIONS:

None known.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

Pregnancy:

There is a limited amount of data from the use of CANESTEN® Topical Cream in pregnant women. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity. As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of CANESTEN® Topical Cream during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Lactation:

Available pharmacodynamic/ toxicological data in animals have shown excretion of clotrimazole or its metabolites in milk[2]. Breast-feeding should be discontinued during treatment with CANESTEN® Topical Cream.

Fertility:

No human studies of the effects of CANESTEN® Topical Cream on fertility have been performed; however, animal studies have not demonstrated any effects of CANESTEN® Topical Cream on fertility[3].

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

The cream is applied thinly 2-3 times a day and gently rubbed in. A strip of cream (½ cm long) is enough to treat an area of about the size of the hand.

To ensure complete healing depending on the indication the treatment should be continued according to the indications as specified below even if symptoms disappear:

Indication	**Duration of Treatment:**
Dermatomycoses	3 - 4 weeks
Erythrasma	2 - 4 weeks

Pityriasis versicolor	1 - 3 weeks
Candida vulvitis and Candida balanitis	1 - 2 weeks

Patients should notify their physician if there is no improvement after 4 weeks of treatment.

SIDE EFFECTS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

Side Effects:

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of CANESTEN® Topical Cream. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency.

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

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

Special Precautions:

CANESTEN® Topical Cream may reduce the effectiveness and safety of latex products such as condoms and diaphragms when applied on the genital area (women: labia and adjacent area of the vulva; men: prepuce and glans of the penis). The effect is temporary and occurs only during treatment.

Avoid contact with eyes.

Do not swallow.

Cetostearyl alcohol may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).

Effects on ability to drive and use machine

CANESTEN® Topical Cream has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive or use machinery.

KNOWN SYMPTOMS OF OVERDOSAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT:

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

IDENTIFICATION:

A soft white odourless cream.

PRESENTATION:

A collapsible aluminium tube of 20 g CANESTEN® Topical Cream placed in an outer carton.

STORAGE DIRECTIONS:

Store at or below 25 ºC. Keep out of reach of children.

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

E/20.2.2/49

NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION:

Bayer (Pty) Ltd

27 Wrench Road, Isando 1600,

South Africa

Co. Reg No 1968/011192/07

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE PACKAGE INSERT:

The date on the registration certificate of the medicine: 27 May 1973

The date of the most recently revised package insert as approved by Council: April 1995

ZIMBABWE	PID 74/14.1.3/0242
TANZANIA	TAN 00,971 D01A BAY
NAMIBIA	90/20.2.2/00359
BOTSWANA	B9300965