

Monistat (miconazole) basics

Treats vaginal yeast infections Monistat (miconazole) effectively treats vaginal yeast infections and doesn't require a prescription.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Monistat (miconazole) Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar from 0 to 3 days]				
Possible side effects	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Vaginal burning, irritation or itching 2% chance	[Red bar from 0 to 3 days]				
Cramps 2% chance	[Red bar from 0 to 3 days]				
Rash†	[Red bar from 0 to 3 days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- If this is your first yeast infection, talk to your doctor before using Monistat (miconazole).
- Stop using Monistat (miconazole) if you don't feel better in 3 days or your symptoms last longer than 7 days.
- Don't have sex, use tampons, douches, or spermicides while you're using Monistat (miconazole). It is okay to use Monistat (miconazole) when you are on your period.
- Use Monistat (miconazole) at bedtime. If you're using the insert, lie flat on your back and place it into your vagina. You can also squeeze a little bit of cream onto your fingers and apply it on any irritated skin outside of your vagina up to 2 times a day.
- If you experience lower stomach back or shoulder pain with fever, chills, and weird smelling vaginal discharge, let your doctor know right away.
- If you're pregnant, talk with your doctor before using Monistat (miconazole).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Vaginal irritation

Monistat (miconazole) can cause more irritation, burning or itching in the vaginal area. It can be mild, but if it becomes really uncomfortable, let your doctor know.

Damage to condoms and diaphragms

Monistat (miconazole) can compromise any protective rubber or latex diaphragm or condom. Don't have sex while using Monistat (miconazole).

Treatment failure

If you're still having vaginal itching, irritation, or thick discharge after using Monistat (miconazole) for 3 days, let your doctor know. Your doctor can help diagnose your condition, and figure out if there's another medication that might work better for you. Don't use Monistat (miconazole) for more than 7 days.