

Tinactin (tolnaftate) basics

Treats fungal infections. Tinactin (tolnaftate) is a good and inexpensive over-the-counter medicine that treats fungal infections like athlete's foot and jock itch with few side effects. However, it can take 4 to 6 weeks to completely get rid of the infection.

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
Tinactin (tolnaftate) Drug effectiveness		[Progressive blue bar from Day 1 to Week 6]			
Possible side effects†					
Skin rash	[Red bar from Hour 1 to Day 1]				
Itchy or burning skin	[Red bar from Hour 1 to Day 1]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Tinactin (tolnaftate) should only be put on parts of your skin affected by the fungal infection. Don't put it in your eyes, nose, mouth, or vagina because it can burn in these areas.
- For best results, clean the area of affected skin before putting on this medication.
- Wash your hands after using Tinactin (tolnaftate), unless the fungal infection you are treating is on your hands.
- Unless your doctor tells you to, you should not use bandages or dressings over the affected area.
- If you miss a dose, put Tinactin (tolnaftate) on as soon as you remember, but do not put 2 doses on at one time or add extra doses.
- Tinactin (tolnaftate) can sometimes cause mild itchy skin or burning that goes away by itself, but if your symptoms are very bad and do not go away, tell your doctor right away.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Skin rash

Tinactin (tolnaftate) can cause itchy, burning, or dry skin in some people. In most cases, these symptoms are mild and get better on their own. Stop using the medication and talk to your doctor right away if you have very bad burning, itchy, red, or dry skin. You may need to use a different kind of medicine to make your skin better.

For use on the skin only

Tinactin (tolnaftate) should only be used on your skin. Do not put it in your eyes, mouth, nose, or vagina as it can cause burning in these parts of your body. If you experience burning in any of these areas, wash the area and talk to your doctor right away.

Flammable

If using the spray form of Tinactin (tolnaftate), be very careful not to use it while smoking, or near heat or flames as it can catch on fire. Store the spray form of this medicine at room temperature.