**clotrimazole (oral)** (kloe-trim-a-zole)

**Stylistic classification**: antifungals (oral, nonabsorbed)

**Pregnancy category**: C

**Indications**

Treatment of oropharyngeal candidiasis. Prevention of oropharyngeal candidiasis in immunocompromised patients (receiving chemotherapy or radiation for cancer or corticosteroids for cancer or transplant).

**Action**

Affects the permeability of the fungal cell wall, allowing leakage of cellular contents.

**Therapeutic effects**

Decrease in or prevention of symptoms of oropharyngeal candidiasis.

**Pharmacokinetics**

*Absorption:* Minimal systemic absorption.

*Distribution:* Inhibitory concentrations remain in saliva for up to 3 hr after troche dissolves.

*Metabolism and Excretion:* Metabolized by liver; <1% excreted unchanged in urine.

*Half-life:* 24 hr.

**TIME/ACTION PROFILE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>ONSET</th>
<th>PEAK</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
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<td>up to 3 hr</td>
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**Contraindications/Precautions**

Contraindicated in:

- Hypersensitivity to clotrimazole or other components of formulation.
- Systemic candidiasis.

Use Cautiously in:

- Hepatic impairment.
- OB:
  - Use only if potential benefit justifies potential risk to fetus.
- Pedi:
  - Children <3 yr (safety and effectiveness not established).

**Adverse Reactions/Side Effects**

**GI:** abnormal mouth sensations, ↑ liver function tests, nausea, vomiting. **Derm:** pruritis.

**Interactions**

Drug-Drug: May ↓ metabolism and ↑ risk of toxicity from CYP3A4 substrates, including cyclosporine, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, some benzodiazepines (alprazolam), and cimetidine, calcium channel blockers, colchicine, somnolent anticholinergics, antiarrhythmics.

**Route/Dosage**

**PO (Adults and Children ≥3 yr):**

- **Treatment:** One troche 5 times daily for 14 days.
- **Prophylaxis:** One troche 3 times daily for the duration of chemotherapy or until steroid doses are reduced to maintenance levels.

**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**

**Assessment**

- Assess oropharyngeal mucosa prior to and periodically during therapy.

**Lab Test Considerations:** Monitor hepatic function prior to and periodically during therapy. May cause ↑ AST.

**Potential Nursing Diagnoses**

- Impaired oral mucous membrane (indications)

**Implementation**

- **PO:** Allow each troche to dissolve slowly in mouth to achieve maximum effect.

**Patient/Family Teaching**

- Instruct patient to take clotrimazole as directed. Allow each troche to slowly dissolve in mouth.

**Evaluation/Desired Outcomes**

- Decrease in or prevention of symptoms of oropharyngeal candidiasis.

*Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?*