Itraconazole in DMSO Ophthalmic

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Itraconazole is a strong antifungal medication that is used to treat fungus infections of the clear part (cornea) of the eyes. This condition usually occurs in horses and treatment usually lasts at least 4-6 weeks.
- Itraconazole is no longer available as a commercially available ophthalmic drug and will have to be compounded into an eye ointment by a compounding pharmacist. It may be expensive but is not as expensive as natamycin, another antifungal eye drop.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Itraconazole is usually administered as an ointment directly to the eye sac as it is too thick to be administered as a liquid.
- This ointment contains a chemical called DMSO which may be hazardous to some humans. You should wear gloves while applying this ointment and wash hands afterwards.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?
- Once the medication starts killing off the fungus, the eye will at first become swollen and cloudy. This is a good sign that the fungus are dying. If this persists after 48 hours you should call your veterinarian.

How Should It Be Given?
- Itraconazole ointment may be used every 1-2 hours during the first few days of treatment and then four to six times daily for 4-6 weeks afterwards.
- If you are giving more than one medication, you should allow 5 minutes between medications to allow the medication to work and to not be washed out by the next medication.
- Medication should be applied in the lower eyelid sac (conjunctival sac) without touching the tip of the dropper or tube to the eye as this will contaminate the medication. Do not touch the dropper or tube tip with your fingers as this will also contaminate the medication.

- The successful outcome of your animal’s treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- You should always wash your hands after applying this medication to your pet’s eyes.
- Dogs and Cats: Itraconazole is not usually administered to dogs or cats.
- Horses: Horses will usually receive itraconazole as an ointment administered every two to three hours for the first few days and then every 4-6 hours afterwards for 4-6 weeks.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Itraconazole should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Itraconazole has to be specially formulated by a compounding pharmacist and may be expensive. You should call for refills well ahead of the time you need them to ensure that the pharmacist has had time to make this ointment.
- Your horse’s eye should start to look better in 48 hours. If the eye looks the same or gets worse, you should contact your veterinarian for advice.