

DRUG PROFILE

ANTIFUNGALS IN CHILDREN

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Abstract: Over the past few years the antifungal armamentarium against invasive mycoses has expanded greatly. Most studies evaluating the safety and efficacy of antifungal agents are limited to adults and the dosage guidelines for newer antifungal agents lack adequate pediatric studies and hence their use in pediatrics is often off label. Antifungal studies specifically designed for children are necessary as changes in pharmacokinetics of these drugs occur throughout childhood.

Keywords: Antifungals, Children, Fluconazole, Itraconazole, Amphotericin, Caspofungin

Points to Remember

- *Aspergillosis is best treated with voriconazole.*
- *Superficial candidiasis is often treated with topical imidazoles whereas in invasive infections amphotericin B or caspofungin is used as first line.*
- *Superficial skin and nail infections often require only topical therapy but in tinea capitis, topical and systemic therapy is warranted.*
- *Many promising new antifungal agents are in the pipeline for treatment of childhood mycoses but clinical trials are limited in pediatric population and hence, judicious use of these medications is necessary.*

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