

## SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS

### Pityriasis versicolor

([CKS July 22](#))

Pityriasis versicolor (also known as tinea versicolor) is a common fungal infection of the skin that is localized to the outermost layer of the epidermis.

Patient Information Leaflet available from British Association of Dermatologists [here](#)

#### Organisms

- Malassezia species

#### Treatment:

Treatment is usually highly effective, but may need to be repeated, as recurrence is common (especially in the summer months).

Following successful treatment skin discolouration (also considering sun tanning colour changes) may take several weeks or months to fully resolve.

#### Topical treatments:

Medication <sup>1</sup>	Dosage	Duration
If an extensive area is involved, prescribe antifungal shampoo		
Ketoconazole 2% shampoo	<b>Children and adults ≥12 years:</b> The preparation should be lathered and left on affected skin for 3–5 minutes before thoroughly rinsing off. Apply once a day.	Maximum 5 days
If only small areas are involved, consider prescribing an antifungal cream.		
Clotrimazole 1% cream	Apply twice a day	For up to 2-3 weeks
<sup>1</sup> See BNF for appropriate use and dosing in specific populations, e.g., hepatic, or renal impairment, pregnancy, and breastfeeding.		

**Systemic therapy** (itraconazole 200mg once a day for 7 days) may be indicated for widespread disease or where topical treatment has failed.

Oral terbinafine is not effective.

Version Control- Pityriasis versicolor			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
V2.1	Nichola Butcher, Specialist MO and Interface Pharmacist	29/09/22	Added definition and patient information leaflet. Added that treatment may need to be repeated and there may be skin discolouration. Ketoconazole added as per CKS and BNF. Detail added about using over small or larger area. Added warnings and changed doses to words.