



Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

May 2025

Caspofungin: Recommendation not to use membrane derived from polyacrylonitrile in patients in intensive care under hemofiltration and receiving treatment with caspofungin

Dear Healthcare Professional,

The General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance (PVGA) at the Egyptian drug authority (EDA) would like to inform you **about Recommendation not to use membrane derived from polyacrylonitrile in patients in intensive care under hemofiltration**

Summary

- Use of membrane derived from polyacrylonitrile in patients in intensive care under hemofiltration and receiving treatment with caspofungin may cause significant sequestration of this antifungal by polyacrylonitrile-derived membranes.
- This sequestration persists even after increasing doses, and that the treatment therefore has no effect.
- The risk for the patient is a worsening of the infection, which can lead to death.
- It is recommended to use another extra-renal purification membrane in these patients, or another antifungal drug if the yeast is sensitive to it.

Background on the safety concern

Caspofungin belongs to a group of medicines called antifungals which is used to treat the following infections in children, adolescents and adults:

- serious fungal infection of your tissues or organs (called “invasive candidiasis”). This infection is caused by fungi (yeasts) called *Candida*.
 - People who are likely to develop this type of infection include those who have recently undergone surgery or those who have an immune deficiency. Fever and chills that do not respond to antibiotic treatment are the most common symptoms of this type of infection.
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- fungal infection in the nose, sinuses, or lungs (called invasive aspergillosis) when other antifungal treatments have not been effective enough or have caused side effects. This infection is caused by fungi called Aspergillus.
- People who are likely to get this type of infection are those receiving chemotherapy, organ transplants or those with immune deficiencies.
- suspected fungal infection if, despite antibiotic treatment, you have a persistent fever and your white blood cell count remains low. People at risk of developing a fungal infection include those who have recently undergone surgery or those who have an immune deficiency.

The recommendation not to use membrane derived from polyacrylonitrile in patients in intensive care under hemofiltration and receiving treatment with caspofungin follows Ansm's analysis of several reports of suspected ineffectiveness of caspofungin used in these conditions for candida infection, including four deaths.

In addition, experimental work suggests significant sequestration of this antifungal by membranes derived from polyacrylonitrile and Increasing the dose does not mitigate sequestration

Reference

Ansm:

<https://santesecu.public.lu/dam-assets/fr/espace-professionnel/domaines/dhpc/dhpc2025/levonogrestel-risques.pdf>

ScienceDirect:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0924857923002819?via%3Dihub>

Call for reporting

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Egyptian reporting system:

Name: General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance

Email: pv.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg

Online reporting: <https://vigiflow-eforms.who-umc.org/eg/med>

QR Code:

PO Box: 11451

Hotline: 15301

