

Raltegravir (Isentress®)

Tablet: 400 mg



How do this medication work?

Raltegravir is an antiretroviral drug that acts by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Raltegravir is an integrase inhibitor. It acts by inhibiting the integrase enzyme which is an essential step in the viral replication pathway.

Raltegravir is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to slow the progression of the disease and reduce the risk of opportunistic infections (AIDS-related infections).

Raltegravir does not cure AIDS nor kill the virus. There is a permanent risk of transmitting HIV either through sexual or blood contact. It is therefore essential that precautions always be taken (latex condoms, clean syringes, etc.).

Fertile women must use an effective means of birth control.

How do I take this medication?

Raltegravir
1 tablet of 400 mg
Twice a day

Raltegravir may be taken **with or without food**.

It is important to take your antiretroviral medicine properly - i.e. never forget a dose, follow the instructions on how to take the medicine, and always keep on with your treatment.

It is important to take Raltegravir regularly, at the same time each day, and to keep to this schedule as closely as possible.

Adherence to therapy will help prevent resistance (HIV's ability to recognize and defeat the effect of the medication) and avoid treatment failure (loss of efficacy of the antiretroviral treatment), which would result in an increased viral load and a lower number of CD4 cells, which are the ones that help your body fight infection.

Nearly everyone tends to relax their compliance with the treatment at some point. The key to success is motivation. Don't hesitate to consult members of your care team so that they can explain the benefits of the treatment you are having. They can also suggest ways that will help you maintain it properly.

Unless you are having serious side effects, never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.

What if I forget to take a dose?

If forgotten less than 6 hours after scheduled time:

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and then continue with your regular schedule.

If forgotten more than 6 hours after scheduled time:

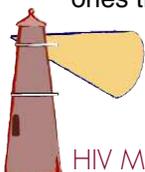
Do not take the missed dose and just take the following dose at the usual time.

Do not double up doses.



Can I take Raltegravir with my other medications?

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug.



What are the side effects of these medications?

Raltegravir is an antiretroviral generally well tolerated.

Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated
Continue the medication



- Diarrhea, nausea
- Fatigue
- Headaches



Contact your doctor
Continue the medication

- Muscle pain
- Rash only (redness on the skin)

See your doctor **IMMEDIATELY**

Rash combined with one or many of the following symptoms:

- fever, ulcers in the mouth,
- swelling, blistering,
- redness in the eyes,
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pains,
- muscle and joint pains,
- severe fatigue.

Medical follow-up : Through regular blood tests your doctor will monitor the effects of this medication on your liver and muscles.

Keep your doctor or pharmacist informed of any side effect causing discomfort so they can help you deal with it.

Can I drink alcohol with Raltegravir?

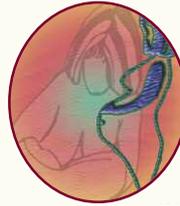
Avoid excessive or regular consumption of alcohol (beer, wine or hard liquor), which can increase the risk

of hepatitis (liver inflammation) or interact with some of your medications.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have an alcoholic drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not damage your health.



What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?



The effect of Raltegravir in pregnant women is not yet known. Talk to your doctor if you want to take Raltegravir and are pregnant or want to become pregnant.

Since the virus can be transmitted through maternal milk, breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.

General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team so that your health can be closely monitored.

If you have any questions about your medications or need help to schedule when to take them, please contact your doctor or pharmacist who is familiar with what you are taking.

Contact person : _____

Telephone : _____

Storage

Raltegravir tablets should be kept in a dry place at room temperature (15-30°C or 59-86°F). Avoid storage in bathroom.



Keep this medication in a secure container and out of reach from children.