



How does this medication work?

Raltegravir is an antiretroviral drug that acts by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Raltegravir is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to slow the progression of the HIV virus. It helps keeping your immune system strong and reduces the risk of developing infections that occur when the immune system is weak (opportunistic 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.).



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 not to forget to take doses of your antiretroviral medication, otherwise, the virus may become resistant. The medication will lose its effect on the virus and the treatment will no longer be effective.



Never stop or modify 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 with food at the usual time.

Do not double up doses.

Be careful mixing medication!

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, natural product or recreational drug. 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 this medication?

Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated Continue the medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diarrhea, nausea - Fatigue - Headaches
Contact your doctor Continue the medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rash only (redness on the skin) - Muscle pain and fatigue
See your doctor IMMEDIATELY	<p>Hypersensitivity reaction:</p> <p>Rash WITH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fever, ulcers in the mouth (lesions) - Swelling, blistering (bubbles on the skin) - Eye redness - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea - Muscle and joint pain - Severe fatigue



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 as it can damage your liver, especially if you have hepatitis. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not damage your health.



However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have an alcoholic drink or use drugs.

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 take or want to take this medication and are pregnant or want to become pregnant.



Breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.

Medical Follow-up

Through regular blood tests your doctor will monitor the effects of raltegravir on your liver and muscles.

Storage

Keep raltegravir in a dry place at room temperature (15-30°C or 59-86°F). Avoid humidity (bathrooms, etc.).



Keep out of sight and reach of children.

General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team, so that your health can be closely monitored, even if you have no symptoms.

