

ENFUVRTIDE (FUZEON®)



How do this medication work?

Enfuvirtide is an antiretroviral medication that acts by preventing the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from getting into the cells of our immune system (CD4+ T lymphocytes).

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

Enfuvirtide 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 (use latex condoms, do not share syringes).



What if I forget taking a dose?

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

However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double up doses.**



Can I take enfuvirtide with other medications?

For now, enfuvirtide does not seem to interact with other medications.

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



Can I drink alcohol or take drugs if I'm on enfuvirtide?

Avoid regular alcohol consumption which may damage your liver, especially if you are a hepatitis carrier. Reasonable consumption should not harm your health.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you take alcohol or drugs.



What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

We still do not know the effects of enfuvirtide in pregnant women. Talk to your doctor if you want to take enfuvirtide and are pregnant or want to become pregnant.

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



How do I take this medication ?

Enfuvirtide

6 to 16 years old: 2 mg/kg (maximum 90 mg)
More than 16 years old: 90 mg (1 mL)
Inject under the skin ____ mg (____ mL)

Twice daily

Enfuvirtide can be injected on the sides or back of the arms, on the outside of the thighs, or on the abdomen. Inject yourself each time in a different area where there are no visible skin reactions. Avoid areas where rubbing can create a risk of irritation, such as the waistband or inside of the thighs. Also, do not inject within 2-3 cm around the belly button. For complete instructions read the "Fuzeon administration guide" provided with the medication. It is important that you dispose of your used syringes in the container provided by the company.

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

What are the side effects of this medication?

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|  <p>Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. Continue the medication</p> | <p>- Mild injection site reactions: itching, swelling, redness, pain or tenderness, hardened skin and lumps</p> |
|  <p>Contact your doctor Continue the medication</p> | <p>- Severe injection site reactions: discharge, a feeling of warmth, swelling, redness or intense pain at the injection site that limits your activities or necessitates pain medication</p> <p>- If the injection site reaction does not disappear within 7 to 10 days</p> <p>- If you have a cough and fever</p> |
|  <p>See your doctor IMMEDIATELY</p> | <p>- Allergic reactions: trouble breathing, fever with vomiting, skin rash, blood in your urine, swelling of your feet</p> |

Inform your doctor and pharmacist of any troublesome side effects. They can help you to manage them.

Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms. Keep enfuvirtide (dry powder alone) in a dry place at room temperature.

The vial with the dry powder mixed with sterile water for injection can be kept in the fridge for a maximum of 24 hours.



General advice

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

