

### How do this medication work?

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

Nelfinavir 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).

Nelfinavir 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 nelfinavir with other medications?

Nelfinavir can interact with many other medications.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug. Do not take St. John's wort while you are taking nelfinavir.



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

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?

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

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



### How do I take this medication ?

#### Nelfinavir

2 tablets of 625 mg

Twice daily

**Take with food** containing at least 125 calories. **Swallow whole.** Do not crush or chew.

Nelfinavir tablets may be dissolved in water and then mixed with milk products not with an acidic food or juice (apple, orange, tomato).

It is important not to forget to take doses of your anti-retroviral medication; otherwise, the virus may become **resistant**. The medication will lose its effect on the virus, and the treatment will no longer be effective.

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



### What are the side effects of this medication?

 <p>Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diarrhea, gas</li> <li>- Nausea, vomiting</li> <li>- Decreased appetite</li> </ul>
 <p>Contact your doctor <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Rash only</u></li> </ul>
 <p>See your doctor <b>IMMEDIATELY</b></p>	<p><b>Rash WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fever, mouth ulcers</li> <li>- Swelling, blisters</li> <li>- Bloodshot eyes</li> <li>- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea</li> <li>- Muscle and joint pains</li> <li>- Severe fatigue, general malaise</li> </ul>

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

### Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep nelfinavir in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.



### 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.

