



**How does this medication work?**

Atripla® is a combination of three antiretroviral (anti-HIV). It acts by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Atripla® is used 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).

Atripla® 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.).



**What if I forget to take a dose?**

The day you missed the dose:

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



The next day of the missed dose:

Do not take the missed dose and just take the following dose at the usual time. **Do not double up doses.**

If you are a hepatitis B carrier (HBV) and stop taking Atripla you must undergo liver function tests to monitor possible changes in your hepatitis condition.

**Be careful mixing medication!**

Atripla® can interact with other medication. Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription, or more particularly, non-prescription medication like anti-inflammatories (Aspirin, Advil, Motrin, etc.) to relieve pain, or any natural product or recreational drug.



**Can I drink alcohol and use drugs with Atripla®?**

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

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



**What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?**

Pregnant women should not take Atripla®. Talk to your doctor as soon as possible if you are pregnant or want to become pregnant. Breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.



**How do I take this medication?**

**ATRIPLA®**

1 tablet  
300 mg of tenofovir, 200 mg of emtricitabine  
and 600 mg of efavirenz

Once daily before bed

Atripla® must be taken on an empty stomach.

It is important to take your antiretroviral medicine properly and to never forget a dose. Otherwise, the virus can become resistant and not responsive to the medication and the treatment will fail.



If you are a hepatitis B carrier (HBV) and stop Atripla® your hepatitis can get worse.

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

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

	Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated <b>Continue the medication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fatigue, headaches, sleeping difficulty</li> <li>- Loss of appetite, nausea, light diarrhea</li> <li>- Drowsiness, dizziness, impaired concentration, abnormal dreams, hangover effect in the morning</li> </ul>
	Contact your doctor <b>Continue the medication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rash</b> (redness on the skin) <b>only</b></li> <li>- Bone pain</li> <li>- Hyperpigmentation of the palm of the hands and sole of the feet</li> <li>- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)</li> </ul>
	See your doctor <b>IMMEDIATELY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rash with:</b> fever, ulcers in the mouth (lesions), swelling, blistering (bubbles on the skin), eye redness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle and joint pains, severe fatigue, general illness.</li> </ul>

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

**Medical follow-up**

Through regular blood tests your doctor will monitor your kidneys. Atripla® can cause nephrotoxicity on some subjects.

**Storage**

Avoid humidity (bathroom).

Keep Atripla® in a dry place at room temperature.

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.

