

**How does this medication work?**

Combivir® is a combination of 2 antiretroviral medications that act by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Combivir® is used in combination with other antiretroviral medications 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).

Combivir® 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).



**What if I forget taking a dose?**

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and then 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 Combivir® 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 Combivir®?**

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?**

Combivir® can be taken during pregnancy.

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



**How do I take this medication?**

**Combivir®**

1 tablet  
(lamivudine 150 mg and zidovudine 300 mg)

Twice a day




Combivir® 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.

If you are an hepatitis B carrier and stop combivir, you 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?**

 <p>Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nausea, headache, insomnia, fatigue, muscle pain</li> <li>- Vomiting, abdominal pain</li> </ul>
 <p>Contact your doctor <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Anemia</u>: fatigue, shortness of breath, palpitations, pale skin.</li> </ul>
 <p>See your doctor <b>IMMEDIATELY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Lactic acidosis</u>: nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, weight loss, severe fatigue, and difficulty breathing</li> <li>- <u>Pancreatitis</u>: abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting</li> </ul>

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

**Medical follow-up**

Your doctor will monitor your bilirubin level by taking regular blood tests.

**Storage**

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep Combivir® 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.

