

How does this medication work?

Darunavir and ritonavir are antiretrovirals that act by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Darunavir and ritonavir are used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to slow the progression of the disease. They help keeping your immune system strong and reduce the risk of developing infections that occur when the immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Darunavir and ritonavir do 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?

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 at the usual time. **Do not double up doses.**

Be careful mixing medication!

Darunavir and ritonavir 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.

Can I drink alcohol and use drugs with Darunavir and Ritonavir?

Avoid excessive or regular consumption of alcohol which may damage your liver, mostly if you are a hepatitis carrier. 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 an alcoholic drink or use drugs.



What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

The effect of darunavir and ritonavir in pregnant women is not yet known. Talk to your doctor if you want to take this medication and are pregnant or want to become pregnant. Breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.



How do I take this medication?

YOUR DOSAGE	
Darunavir	Ritonavir
1 tablets of 600 mg	1 capsule of 100 mg
Twice a day	
OR	
Darunavir	Ritonavir
2 capsules of 400 mg	1 capsule of 100 mg
Once a day	

Darunavir and ritonavir must be taken with food at the same time each day, ideally every 12 hours for twice a day and 24 hours for once a day.

It is important to take your antiretroviral medicine properly and never forget a dose. Otherwise, the virus can become resistant. The medication will lose its supposed effect on the virus and the treatment will fail.

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

What are the side effects of the medication?

Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated Continue the medication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diarrhea or constipation - Nausea, vomiting, stomach pains - Headaches 	
Contact your doctor. Continue the medication.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rash alone (redness on the skin) 	
IMMEDIATELY see your doctor.	
Rash with: <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, general illness 	Hepatitis symptoms (liver inflammation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pale or fatty stools, abdominal or stomach pains, loss of appetite/nausea - Fatigue/weakness - Dark urine, jaundice (yellow skin and eyes) - Severe itchiness

If you are a hepatitis B or C carrier you have a greater risk of experiencing liver problems.

Medical follow-up

Through regular blood tests your doctor will monitor the effects of this medication on your liver, levels of fat (cholesterol, triglycerides) and sugar (glycemia).

Storage

Keep darunavir 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 don't have symptoms.

If you are allergic to sulfonamides tell your doctor before taking darunavir.

