

RITONAVIR /SAQUINAVIR
(Norvir®/Invirase®)



How do these medications work?

Ritonavir and saquinavir are antiretroviral drugs that act by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

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

Ritonavir and saquinavir 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 (use latex condoms, do not share 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 ritonavir and saquinavir with other medications?

Ritonavir and saquinavir can interact with multiple 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 saquinavir and ritonavir?

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 combination of saquinavir and ritonavir is recommended for pregnant women.

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



How do I take these medications?

Saquinavir	Ritonavir
_____ 500 mg tablet(s)	_____ 100 mg tablet(s)
_____ times a day	


The two medications must be taken at the same time. **Take with food.**

It is important not to forget to take doses of your antiretroviral medications; otherwise, the virus may become **resistant**. The medications will lose their 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. Continue the medication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diarrhea, nausea, gas, abdominal pain - Muscle pain - Fatigue, headache
 <p>See your doctor IMMEDIATELY</p>	<p>Hepatitis symptoms: (liver inflammation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pale or fatty stools, abdominal or stomach pains, loss of appetite - Fatigue/weakness - Dark urine, jaundice (yellow skin and eyes) - Severe itchiness <p>If you are a carrier of hepatitis B or C, you are at higher risk of liver problems.</p> <p>Effects on the heart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dizziness, palpitations or irregular heart beat

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

Medical follow-up

Your doctor will monitor the effect of fosamprenavir/ritonavir on your liver, your cholesterol, and your blood sugars by taking regular blood tests.

Storage

Keep saquinavir and ritonavir in a dry place at room temperature (15-30 °C or 59-86 °F). Avoid storage in bathrooms.



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.

