

DARUNAVIR/RITONAVIR

Prezista®

Tablets 800 mg Prezista / 100 mg Norvir

● How does this medication work?

Darunavir and ritonavir are antiretrovirals which inhibit replication of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). They belong to a group of medicines called viral protease inhibitors.

Prezista and Norvir, in association with other antiretrovirals, are used as soon as possible following exposure to HIV to prevent the virus from spreading through your system and therefore help fight infection.

● How should I take this medication?

Prezista and Norvir: 1 tablet of each, once daily every 24 hours. Take Prezista and Norvir with or without food.

It is important to take Prezista and Norvir regularly, at the same time every day, and to follow your schedule of administration as precisely as possible.

Never stop your medication without first talking to your doctor.

● I missed a dose!

On the day of your missed dose: Take the missed dose as soon as possible and take the next dose at the usual time.

The next day after you missed your dose: Skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time.

Do not double up next dose.

● What are the adverse effects of this medication?

Gastrointestinal problems (digestive problems) like diarrhea, soft feces, abdominal pains and nausea are some of the most frequent adverse effects that occur with Prezista and Norvir. If these appear and persist, talk to your pharmacist, nurse, doctor or dietician in order to find solutions to better cope with them.

Other adverse effects that occur frequently are fatigue or weakness, and headaches. Prezista can sometimes cause skin redness, in which case we recommend you talking to your doctor or pharmacist, but don't stop taking your medication. However, if the redness is accompanied by fever, mouth ulcers, stomachaches or general discomfort, talk to your doctor immediately.

With frequent blood tests, your doctor will monitor the effect of Prezista and Norvir in your system. Talk to your doctor and pharmacist if any one of these adverse effects causes discomfort.

● Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding, tell your doctor before taking Prezista and Norvir.

● Can I take Prezista® with other medication?

Oral contraceptives (birth-control pill) Prezista and Norvir can diminish the efficacy of oral contraceptives. Please take additional precautions like latex condoms.

St. John's wort St. John's wort can diminish the efficacy of Prezista and make the virus resistant to this medication. Do not take St. John's wort with Prezista.

Sildenafil (Viagra), tadalafil (Cialis), vardenafil (Levitra) Prezista and Norvir can increase the risk of adverse effects that come with these medications.

Prezista and Norvir can interact with many other medications.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking new prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, natural health products or even recreational drugs.

● Can I drink alcohol with Prezista and Norvir?

Avoid excessive or regular alcohol consumption (beer, wine and spirits), which can increase the risk of hepatitis (liver inflammation) or interact with some of your medication. However, avoid "skipping" a dose because you wish to have a drink. Unless instructed by your doctor, a reasonable alcohol consumption (2 glasses a day) or an occasional consumption shouldn't interfere with your treatment.

● To avoid the transmission of the infection in the 6 months following exposure to the virus:

- Avoid all sexual contact or use condoms;
- Avoid getting pregnant, do not breastfeed, do not donate blood, plasma, organs, tissue or sperm.

At all times: never share toothbrushes, razors, or syringes.

● Storage

Store Prezista and Norvir tablets in a dry place at room temperature (15°-30°C or 59°- 86°F). Keep out of sight and out of the reach of children.

● General advice

Keep up with your appointments with your doctor and your health care team so they can keep a close check on your health.