

**ATAZANAVIR (Reyataz®)**  
**RITONAVIR (Norvir®)**



**How do these medications work?**

Atazanavir and ritonavir are antiretroviral medications that act by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Atazanavir and ritonavir 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).

Atazanavir 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 (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 atazanavir and ritonavir with other medications?**

Atazanavir should not be taken with other medications which affect stomach acidity such as Maalox®, Diovol®, Pepcid®, Zantac 75®, etc. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking any medications for your stomach acidity. Do not take St. John's wort while you are taking atazanavir.



If you are also taking Viagra®, Cialis®, or Levitra®, the dose of these medications should be reduced.

Atazanavir and ritonavir may interact with several 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 atazanavir 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 medications because you take alcohol or drugs.



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

We still do not know the effects of atazanavir and ritonavir in pregnant women. Talk to your doctor if you want to take atazanavir and ritonavir and are pregnant or want to become pregnant. Breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.



**How do I take these medications?**

Atazanavir	Ritonavir
1 capsule of 300 mg once daily	1 capsule of 100 mg once daily




Atazanavir and ritonavir must be taken together at the same time every day, about every 24 hours with food (light meal or snack). Swallow the whole capsule of atazanavir with water. Do not break, chew or crush it. Drink plenty of water during the day.

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 one or both treatments 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>- Diarrhea, gas, nausea, stomach pain</li> <li>- Decreased appetite</li> </ul>
 <p>Contact your doctor <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jaunice (yellow skin and eyes)</li> <li>- Rash (redness on the skin only)</li> </ul>
 <p>See your doctor <b>IMMEDIATELY</b></p>	<p><b>Rash WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fever, mouth ulcers</li> <li>- Swelling, blisters</li> <li>- Eyes redness</li> <li>- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea</li> <li>- Muscle and joint pains</li> <li>- Severe fatigue</li> </ul> <p><b>Effect on the heart rate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dizziness, palpitations or irregular heart beat</li> </ul> <p><b>kidney stones:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pain in the back or side, blood in urine, pain when urinating</li> </ul>

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

**Storage**

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep atazanavir and ritonavir in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep these medications 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.

