



How does this medication work ?

Kivexa® is a combination of two antiretroviral drugs. It acts by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or the hepatitis B virus.

Kivexa® is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to slow the progression of the HIV virus. It helps keeping your immune system strong and reduces the risk of developing infections that occur when the immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Kivexa® 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, etc.).



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 Kivexa® 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 Kivexa®?

Alcohol can increase the side effects of Kivexa®. Avoid regular consumption of alcohol which may damage your liver, mostly if you are a hepatitis carrier. Reasonable consumption should not damage your health.



However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want an alcoholic drink or take drugs.

What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding ?

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



How do I take this medication ?

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| Kivexa® |
| 1 tablet (abacavir 600 mg and lamivudine 300 mg) |
| once daily |

Kivexa® can 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.



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

Your hepatitis can get worst if you are a hepatitis B carrier and stop Kivexa®. Talk to your doctor if you want to stop Kivexa®.

What are the side effects of this medication?

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| Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. Continue the medication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fatigue - Difficulty sleeping - Gastrointestinal effects |
| See your doctor IMMEDIATELY | Rash alone or symptoms from 2 of the following groups: 1) Fever 2) Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain 3) Severe fatigue, general illness 4) Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough. Lactic acidosis: Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, weight loss, severe, fatigue, difficulty breathing |

If you stop taking your medication by yourself due to side effects or a disease, consult your doctor before restarting Kivexa®. Your doctor will insure that your symptoms are not related to an allergic reaction. If you had an hypersensitivity reaction, never take Kivexa® again nor any medication containing abacavir like Ziagen and Trizivir.

Storage

Avoid bathrooms.

Keep Kivexa® in a dry place at room temperature.

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 have no symptoms.

If you think that you may have an allergic reaction to Kivexa®, rapidly consult your doctor.

