



# Atazanavir (Reyataz®)

Capsules: 200 mg

## How does this medication work?

Atazanavir is an antiretroviral drug that acts by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Atazanavir is a viral protease inhibitor. It acts by preventing the maturation of new copies of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Atazanavir is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to slow the progression of the disease and reduce the risk of opportunistic infections (AIDS-related infections).

Atazanavir 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.).

Fertile women must use an effective means of birth control.

## How do I take this medication?

Atazanavir
2 capsules 200 mg
Once daily

Atazanavir must be taken 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 to take atazanavir regularly, at the same time each day, and to keep to this schedule as closely as possible. Adherence to therapy will help prevent resistance (HIV's ability to recognize and defeat the effect of the medication) and avoid treatment failure (loss of efficacy of the antiretroviral treatment), which would result in an increased viral load and a lower number of CD4 cells, which are the ones that help your body fight infection.

Nearly everyone tends to relax their compliance with the treatment at some point. The key to success is motivation. Don't hesitate to consult members of your care team so that they can explain the benefits of the treatment you are having. They can also suggest ways that will help you maintain it properly.

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

## Can I take Atazanavir with my other medications?

### • Antacids such as Maalox® and Diovol®

Take atazanavir 2 hours before or 1 hour after antacids.

• **Other drugs used for gastric acidity:** cimetidine (Tagamet®), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant®), esomeprazole (Nexium®), famotidine (Pepcid®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), nizatidine (Axid®), omeprazole (Losec®), pantoprazole (Pantoloc®), rabeprazole (Pariet®), ranitidine (Zantac®).

These drugs may decrease the absorption of Atazanavir. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of these drugs.

### • Sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) and vardenafil (Levitra®)

Atazanavir can increase the risk of side effects associated with these drugs and the dose of these drugs should be reduced.

### • Grapefruit juice

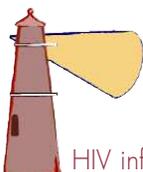
Avoid consumption.

### • St. John's wort

St. John's wort can decrease the efficacy of atazanavir and possibly allow the virus to develop resistance. Do not take St. John's wort while you are taking atazanavir.

Atazanavir may interact with a number of prescription and street drugs (e.g., Valium®, Demerol®, "Ecstasy", etc.).

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug.



## What are the side effects of this medication?

Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated  
**Continue the medication.**



- Diarrhea, gas
- Nausea, stomach pains
- Headaches



Contact your doctor  
**Continue the medication.**

- Rash only (redness on the skin)
- Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)

See **IMMEDIATELY** your doctor

**Rash** combined with one or many of the following symptoms:

- Fever, ulcers in the mouth,
- Swelling, blistering,
- Redness in the eyes,
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea,
- Abdominal pains, muscle and joint pains

**Effect on heart rate:**

- Dizziness, palpitations or irregular heartbeat.

**Kidney stones:**

- pain in the back or side, blood in urine, pain when urinating



Keep your doctor or pharmacist informed of any side effect causing discomfort so they can help you deal with it.

## What if I forget to take a dose!

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and then continue with your regular schedule.

However, if it's nearly time to take the following dose, do not take the missed dose and just take the following one at the usual time. **Do not double up doses.**



## Can I drink alcohol with Atazanavir?

Avoid excessive or regular consumption of alcohol (beer, wine or hard liquor), which can increase the risk of hepatitis (liver inflammation) or interact with some of your medications.



However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have an alcoholic drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not damage your health.

## General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team, so that your health can be closely monitored.

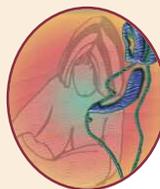
If you have any questions about your medications or need help to schedule when to take them, please contact your doctor or pharmacist, who is familiar with what you are taking.

Contact person : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_

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

The effect of atazanavir in pregnant women is not yet known. Talk to your doctor if you want to take atazanavir and are pregnant or want to become pregnant.



Since the virus can be transmitted through maternal milk, breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.

## Storage

Keep atazanavir in a dry place at room temperature (15-30°C or 59-86°F). Avoid storage in wet areas such as bathroom.

Keep this medication in a secure container and out of reach from children.

