

NEVIRAPINE
(VIRAMUNE® , VIRAMUNE XR®)



How do this medication work?

Nevirapine is an antiretroviral medication that acts by preventing multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

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

Nevirapine does not cure AIDS nor kill the virus. There is a permanent risk of transmitting HIV either through sexual or blood contact. It is essential that precautions always be taken (use latex condoms, do not share syringes).



How do I take this medication ?

Nevirapine

From _____ to _____ one 200 mg tablet once a day
Thereafter _____ tablet(s) of 200 mg _____ time(s) a day
OR
1 tablet (long-acting tablet) once a day

Nevirapine may 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.*

What if I forget taking a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and 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.**



What are the side effects of this medication?

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Contact your physician Continue the medication</p>  | <p>- Rash (redness on the skin) only The first 14 days, if a rash occurs during this period, you must wait until the lesions have disappeared before increasing the dose.</p> |
| <p>See your doctor IMMEDIATELY</p>  | <p>Rash WITH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fever, mouth ulcers - Swelling, blisters - Eye redness - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea - Muscle and joint pains - Severe fatigue, general illness <p>Hepatitis: abnormal weakness, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, dark urine, pale stools</p> |

Can I take nevirapine with other medications?

Nevirapine can lessen the efficacy of certain medications.

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



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

Can I drink alcohol if I'm on nevirapine?

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?

We do not yet know the effects of nevirapine in pregnant women. Talk to your doctor if you want to take nevirapine and are pregnant or want to become pregnant.

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



Medical follow-up

Through regular blood test your physician will monitor your liver

Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep nevirapine tablets in a dry place at room temperature.

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.

