



## How this medication works ?

Reyataz is an antiretroviral, atazanavir, that works by preventing the multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Atazanavir is part of a class of drugs called protease inhibitors. It works by inhibiting an enzyme called protease. The virus needs this enzyme to multiply in the body. So Reyataz, when taken every day and faithfully in combination with other antiretrovirals, keep the viral load undetectable and help to stay healthy.

## U = U

In the presence of an undetectable load, you are not at risk of transmitting HIV. Undetectable = Untransmissible (U = U). On the other hand, in the presence of a detectable viral load, you are still at risk of transmitting HIV, either through sexual contact or through blood. You must therefore take the necessary precautions (use of latex condoms, clean syringes, etc.).

## How to take this medication ?

Reyataz must be taken in combination with other antiretrovirals.

**Reyataz** → **2 capsules** at 200 mg **once** daily

Atazanavir should be taken **with food** at the same time each day, ideally every 24 hours. Do not open atazanavir capsules, they must be swallowed whole.

It is important to stick to the established schedule as closely as possible. Adherence to treatment will prevent the appearance of resistance (ability of the virus to recognize and outsmart the drug) and consequently treatment failure (loss of the effectiveness of antiretroviral treatment) which would result in an increase in viral load and a decrease in CD4 cells (cells that allow your body to defend itself against infections).

Nearly everyone can experience a drop in adherence to treatment sooner or later. The key to success remains motivation. Do not hesitate to consult your care team so that they can explain the benefits of the therapy. They

can also suggest tools to help you maintain your treatment properly.

Never stop or change your treatment without talking to your doctor first.

## Can I take Reyataz with my other medications ?

The following drugs are contraindicated or should be avoided with Reyataz :

- Alfuzosin, apixaban, bosentan, colchicine (in patients with renal and/or hepatic insufficiency), ergoline derivatives (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, methylergonovine), glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, irinotecan, lomitapide, lovastatin, lurasidone, pimozide, proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, etc.), quetiapine, rivaroxaban, salmeterol, sildenafil (to treat lung problems), simvastatin, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/voxilaprevir, triazolam and vardenafil because of the risk of serious adverse effects.
- Apalutamide, carbamazepine, nevirapine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, rifampicin and products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) as they may affect the effectiveness of Reyataz.

Medicines that reduce acidity may decrease the effectiveness or absorption of Reyataz:

- Antacids (Maalox, Diovol, Gaviscon) and buffered medications: Reyataz should be taken 2 hours before or 1 hour after these.
- Famotidine, cimetidine, nizatidine or ranitidine: Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking these medicines, they will advise you on the correct way to take them.

Many other drugs or products interact or may interact with Reyataz. Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking a new prescription medication, over the counter medication, natural product, or even a recreational drug. An alternative solution, dose adjustments or closer follow-up will be offered to you if necessary.

## What are the side effects of this medication ?

Normal and usually mild effects that will go away over time or can be treated :

- Diarrhea, flatulence (gas)
- Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain
- Decreased appetite

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any side effect that bothers you or any symptom not listed in this document or worsening of a symptom that prevents you from going about your daily activities. They will be able to advise you on how to manage them.

If you are a carrier of the hepatitis B or C virus, you are at a higher risk of liver problems.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist quickly :

- Rash alone
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)
- Dizziness, palpitations, irregular heartbeat

Stop the drug and go **IMMEDIATELY** to a medical clinic or the emergencies

**Severe rash with or without :**

- Fever
- Lack of energy (fatigue)
- Muscle or joint pain



**Medical follow-up :** With regular blood tests and other tests if needed, your doctor will monitor the effects of the medicine on your system.

## I forgot to take a dose !

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and then continue your treatment according to the schedule.



**If it's almost time to take your next dose :**

Drop the missed dose and continue on schedule.

**Do not double up dose.**

## Pregnancy and breast feeding

Discuss with your doctor if you want to take Reyataz and you are pregnant or wish to be pregnant.

The virus can be transmitted through breast milk. Breastfeeding is therefore not recommended for women with HIV infection.

## Storage

Store Reyataz at a maximum temperature of 25°C (77°F) and away from humidity.

Keep out of reach and out of sight of children.

## Can I drink alcohol with Reyataz ?

Avoid excessive or regular consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and spirits) which may increase the risk of hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) or interact with some of your medicines.

However, avoid "skipping" a dose of medication because you want to have an alcoholic drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) and occasional consumption of alcohol should not be detrimental to your health.

## General advice

Be faithful to your appointments with the doctor and care team; they will be able to closely monitor your state of health.

If you have any questions about your medication or need help to schedule when to take them, don't hesitate to ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice as they know your medication well.

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

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