

enfuvirtide (Fuzeon[®])

single use vials for injection

What is enfuvirtide?

Enfuvirtide is a medicine used to lower the amount of HIV virus in your body and make your immune system stronger.

Enfuvirtide is always used with other HIV medicines.

How do I use it?

- Enfuvirtide is available as a powder that is mixed with sterile water and injected under the skin
- Use as directed on the prescription label
- Store vials in a dry place at room temperature and keep out of reach of children

Mixing tips

- Your health care provider will show you how to prepare and inject the dose
- Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with enfuvirtide
- After mixing the powder with sterile water, use right away, or store in the fridge for up to 24 hours
- Use each vial only once
- Do not use if you see particles floating in the vial after you have prepared a dose

Injecting Tips:

- Enfuvirtide is injected under the skin two times each day
- Use a new needle and syringe each time you prepare a dose
- Do not inject yourself in the belly button, scar tissue, bruises or moles
- Use a different area of the body each time you give yourself an injection.

Disposal Tips:

- Discard the used needle and syringe in the special waste bin provided. (Do not throw them in the garbage)
- Return the bin to the pharmacy for disposal when full

What if I forget to use it?

It is very important to use enfuvirtide every day to make sure that it keeps working. If you miss a dose, there is a higher chance the virus will change to a form that is harder to treat. This is called "resistance".

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you are not sure if you should take your dose, call the pharmacist.

If you stop taking HIV medicine, the amount of HIV virus will increase in your blood.

Do not stop any of your HIV medicines without talking to your doctor.



What should I expect?

Side effects may include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- tiredness

- Injection site reactions: signs are itchiness, swelling, redness, pain or tenderness of skin, hardened skin or bumps
- These reactions are common but are usually mild or moderate and usually last less than a week. Avoid injecting too deeply or in the same place on the body

Rare, serious side effects may include:

- Allergic reaction: Signs include rash, blisters on skin or mouth, swelling of the face or throat, difficulty breathing, fever, flu-like symptoms
- Pneumonia: signs are cough with fever, difficulty breathing

Always tell your doctor or pharmacist if side effects are bothering you. IMMEDIATELY contact your doctor if you have any serious side effects

It is important to have regular blood tests to watch for side effects and make sure your HIV medicine is working to control the virus.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or are thinking about becoming pregnant, or if you plan to breastfeed.

Can I use enfuvirtide with other medicines?

Enfuvirtide can be used safely with most other medicines. Drug interactions can stop your treatment from working or may cause unwanted side effects.

Always tell your pharmacist and doctor if you are using any prescription or non-prescription medicines, vitamins, supplements, natural medicines or recreational drugs.

Always check with your pharmacist before starting any new medicines to make sure they are safe for you.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions or problems with your medicine, call St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy:

1-888-511-6222

(Monday to Friday daytime and urgent issues after hours)

To book an appointment to see a St. Paul's Hospital pharmacist:

604-806-8060

(Monday to Friday daytime)

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