

# etravirine (Intelence<sup>®</sup>)



100 mg – white, oval tablet

200 mg – white, oval tablet

## What is etravirine?

Etravirine is a medicine used to lower the amount of HIV virus in your body and make your immune system stronger. Etravirine is always used with other HIV medicines.

## How do I take it?

- Take as directed on the prescription label:
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- Take etravirine at the same times every day, with food
  - Always take etravirine with food to make sure the medicine is absorbed into your body
  - Swallow tablets whole. Swallowing the tablets is easier with a cool liquid. Do NOT take with warm liquids or bubbly drinks such as pop.
  - Tablets may be dissolved in liquid right before use: Mix the tablet in a small amount of water. You may then add more water, juice or milk if you wish. Drink the entire amount, then rinse the cup with more liquid and drink it all to make sure you get the full dose.

Store in a dry place at room temperature, and keep out of reach of children

## What if I forget to take it?

It is very important to take etravirine every day to make sure that it keeps working. If you miss a dose, there is a higher chance that 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 in your blood will increase.

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

## What should I expect?

Etravirine is usually well tolerated. Side effects may include:

- nausea
- diarrhea
- headache
- trouble sleeping

Rare, serious side effects include:

- Allergic reaction: Signs include rash, blisters on skin or mouth, swelling of the face or throat, difficulty breathing, fever, flu-like symptoms
- Liver problems: Signs include yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, pale stools, or pain on right side below ribs

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



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in HIV/AIDS



How you want to be treated.



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 take etravirine with other medicines?

Some medicines interact with etravirine. 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.

Medicines that may interact with etravirine include:

- Some medicines to treat seizures, such as phenytoin (Dilantin®)
- Some antibiotics such as rifampin
- Some antifungal medicines such as ketoconazole
- Some blood thinners such as rivaroxaban (Xarelto®), clopidogrel (Plavix®), warfarin
- Some medicines to treat depression, anxiety, or sleep problems
- Some heart medicines
- Herbal medicines such as St. John's Wort, ginkgo biloba

This is not a complete list of medicines that interact with etravirine.

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

## What if I have questions?

If you have questions or problems with your medicine, call the 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, call reception:

**604-806-8060**

(Monday to Friday daytime)

This pamphlet is for general information purposes only. It does not provide individual medical or treatment advice and is not a substitute for medical or professional care.