

nevirapine

(generic equivalent of Viramune®)

200 mg - white, oval tablet

What is nevirapine?

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

How do I take it?

- Take as directed on the prescription label:
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- When starting or re-starting nevirapine, the dose may be different during the first 2 weeks of treatment.
 - Take nevirapine at the same time(s) every day, with or without food.
 - If you stop taking nevirapine for more than 7 days in a row, talk to your pharmacist or doctor right away for advice on how to restart. You may need a blood test or dose change **before** you can safely restart treatment.

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 nevirapine 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?

Nevirapine is usually well tolerated. Side effects may include:

- nausea
- diarrhea
- headache

Rare, serious nevirapine side effects are most likely to occur in the first 18 weeks of treatment. These may include:

- Severe rash
- 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

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 nevirapine with other medicines?

Some medicines interact with nevirapine. 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 nevirapine 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®), warfarin
- Methadone
- Some medicines used for sleeping
- Some medicines to treat depression or anxiety
- Some birth control medicines
- Herbal medicines such as St. John's Wort, ginkgo biloba

This is not a complete list of medications that interact with nevirapine.

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)

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