

# Raltegravir

*ral-TEG-ra-vir*

**Brand Name:** Isentress

**Drug Class:** Integrase Inhibitors

Raltegravir, also known as Isentress and MK-0518, is a type of medicine called an integrase inhibitor. Integrase inhibitors work by blocking integrase, a protein that HIV needs to insert its viral genetic material into the genetic material of an infected cell.

## **HIV/AIDS-Related Uses**

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Raltegravir was approved by the FDA on October 12, 2007, for use with other anti-HIV agents in the treatment of HIV infection in adults. It is the first integrase inhibitor approved by the FDA. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

In August 2006, Merck opened a worldwide expanded access program for individuals with HIV who have limited or no treatment options. Individuals and health care professionals can call 1-888-577-8839 or visit <http://www.earmrk.com> for more information.

## **Dosage Form/Administration**

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Raltegravir comes in tablet form and is taken by mouth.

## **Recommended Daily Dose**

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The recommended dosage of raltegravir for adults is 400 mg twice a day. Doses of 200, 400, and 600 mg have been studied in clinical trials.

Some individuals may benefit from different doses of raltegravir. Individuals should always take raltegravir as prescribed by their doctors.

## **Contraindications**

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Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

## **Possible Side Effects**

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Along with its desired effects, raltegravir can cause some unwanted effects. Although not all of these effects are known, the most common side effects seen in clinical trials have been diarrhea, nausea, headache, and fever.

## **Drug and Food Interactions**

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A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

## **Clinical Trials**

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For information on clinical trials that involve Raltegravir, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Raltegravir AND HIV Infections.

## **Manufacturer Information**

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Isentress  
Merck & Company, Inc  
One Merck Dr  
P.O. Box 100  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889-0100  
(800) 609-4618

Raltegravir  
Merck & Company, Inc  
One Merck Dr  
P.O. Box 100  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889-0100  
(800) 609-4618

## **For More Information**

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Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: [http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live\\_help](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help) Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET