

Emtricitabine

em-trye-SYE-ta-been

Brand Name: Emtriva

Emtricitabine, also known as Emtriva or FTC, is a type of medicine called a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). These medicines work by blocking reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Emtricitabine was approved by the FDA on July 2, 2003 for use with other anti-HIV drugs in the treatment of HIV infection in adults. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Information

Emtricitabine comes in capsule form and may be taken with or without food.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of emtricitabine is 200 mg once a day. Patients with decreased kidney function may need to take emtricitabine less frequently. Some patients may benefit from different doses of emtricitabine. Patients should always take emtricitabine as prescribed by their doctors.

Contraindications

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

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, emtricitabine can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, lack of appetite, weight loss, difficulty breathing, and fatigue. Individuals should tell a doctor right away if they have symptoms of any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include headache, diarrhea, nausea, rash, and skin discoloration. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

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

Clinical Trials

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

Manufacturer Information

Emtricitabine
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(800) 445-3235

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For More Information

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 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET