

Ritonavir

rit-ON-uh-veer

Brand Name: Norvir

Ritonavir, also known as Norvir, is a type of antiretroviral drug called a protease inhibitor (PI). This class of drugs acts by blocking protease, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Ritonavir was approved by the FDA on March 1, 1996, for use with other antiretrovirals in the treatment of HIV infection in adults and children 2 years of age or older. Studies have shown that ritonavir works as a booster for some other PIs. Taking ritonavir makes it possible to take a lower dose of the other PIs, which results in fewer and less severe side effects. 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

There are two forms of ritonavir: soft gel capsules and liquid. Both forms should be taken with food. Ritonavir capsules should be stored in the refrigerator; however, they can be kept at room temperature as long as they are used within 30 days. The liquid form of ritonavir should be stored at room temperature.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of ritonavir for adults is 600 mg twice a day. Patients may start at a lower dose and increase the dose over time. The recommended dose of ritonavir for children is based on height and weight; it should not be more than 600 mg twice a day.

Some patients may benefit from different doses of ritonavir. Patients should always take ritonavir as prescribed by their doctor.

Contraindications

Patients should tell a doctor about any pre-existing conditions before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, ritonavir can cause some unwanted effects, including severe pancreas disease. A doctor should be notified if an individual

taking this medication experiences severe stomach pain, nausea, or vomiting. Other serious side effects are changes in body fat, increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia, high sugar and fat levels in the blood, and onset or worsening of diabetes.

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 generalized weakness, burning or prickling sensation in the hands and feet, stomach pain, diarrhea, constipation, indigestion, flatulence, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, change in sense of taste, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, insomnia, fever, throat irritation, abnormal thinking, rash, pharyngitis, and sweating .

Drug and Food Interactions

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

Clinical Trials

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

Manufacturer Information

Ritonavir
Abbott Laboratories
One Hundred Abbott Park Rd
Abbott Park, IL 60064-3500
(800) 633-9110

Norvir
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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