

Efavirenz

ef-FAH-ver-enz

Brand Name: Sustiva

Efavirenz, also known as EFV or Sustiva, is a type of antiretroviral medication called a nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). NNRTIs blocks reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

EFV was approved by the FDA on September 17, 1998, for use with other antiretroviral medications in the treatment of HIV infection in adults and children age 3 and older. It does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

EFV may also be used with other antiretroviral medications to prevent HIV in people who have been exposed to the virus in the work place, such as health care providers who come in contact with HIV infected blood through an accidental needle stick.

Dosage Information

EFV comes in capsule and tablet forms. It can be taken with or without food, but should not be taken with a high fat meal.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of EFV for adults and children weighing more than 88 lbs is 600 mg once a day. The recommended dose for children weighing less than 88 lbs depends on the child's weight. Taking EFV at bedtime may decrease some of its side effects. Some patients may benefit from different doses of EFV.

Patients should always take EFV as prescribed by their doctors.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any preexisting conditions before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, EFV can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of EFV include abnormal thinking, confusion, depression, hallucinations, memory loss, paranoid thinking, and

thoughts of suicide. Some patients may develop a severe rash. A doctor should be notified if an individual taking this medication experiences these symptoms.

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 nausea, diarrhea, sleep problems, abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, impaired concentration, and changes in certain blood tests.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications. Patients taking astemizole (Hismanal), cisapride (Propulsid), midazolam (Versed), triazolam (Halcion), or ergot medicines (e.g., Cafergot) should not take EFV.

EFV may change the effects of some birth control pills. A second method of birth control should be used while taking EFV.

Clinical Trials

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

Manufacturer Information

Sustiva
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co
PO Box 4500
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500
(800) 321-1335

Efavirenz



Manufacturer Information (cont.)

Efavirenz
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co
PO Box 4500
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500
(800) 321-1335

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