

*Take this
medicine exactly
as prescribed at
the same time
each day.*

Raltegravir (Isentress®)

Raltegravir is a medicine used to either treat human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or reduce the risk of contracting HIV. This medicine is always taken in combination with other medicines and should never be taken alone.

Dosage and administration

Take raltegravir twice a day, about 12 hours apart. Take this medicine at the same time every day at regular intervals.

You may take this medicine with or without food. Take this medicine with a full glass of water. Do not crush, cut or chew this medicine.

Missed doses

It is important not to miss any doses of your medicine. Missing a dose will increase your risk of contracting HIV or becoming resistant to this medicine.

If you do miss a dose of your medicine, take it as soon as you remember unless it is almost time for your next dose. If it is close to your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue at your scheduled time. Never take a double or extra dose of your medicine.

Drug interactions

Tell your physician and pharmacist about all medicines you take at home. This includes other prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, herbals or supplements. Some of these may interact with your medicine.

Raltegravir interacts with many over-the-counter medicines used to treat stomach problems, such as heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Some of these medicines include:

- Omeprazole (Prilosec®, others)
- Pantoprazole (Protonix®)
- Lansoprazole (Prevacid®, others)
- Calcium carbonate (Tums®)
- Aluminum hydroxide (Maalox®)

Tell your pharmacist and physician if you take any of these medicines, or other medicines used to reduce stomach acid. They will tell you how to manage this interaction.

Side effects

Raltegravir may cause the following:

- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Problems sleeping

When to call the physician

Call your physician right away, if any of the following occur:

- Allergic reaction including a skin rash, hives, itching or swelling of the lips, tongue or face
- Trouble breathing
- Mood changes or changes in behavior
- Muscle pains
- Fever or chills
- Dark-colored urine

Northwestern Medicine – Health Information Resources

For more information, contact Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Alberto Culver Health Learning Center (HLC) at hlc@nm.org, or by calling 312.926.5465. Health information professionals can help you find the information you need and provide you with personal support at no charge.

For more information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at nm.org.