

# ETRAVIRINE

**Other NAMES:** Intelence™

## Why is this drug prescribed?

Etravirine is an antiretroviral (anti-HIV) drug that is part of the non nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTIs or Non Nukes) family. It is used together with other antiretrovirals in treatment-experienced adult patients, who have failed previous therapy, and have HIV-1 strains which are resistant to other retrovirals and NNRTIs. Etravirine is used to delay the progression of HIV infection. By using etravirine, your immune system should improve (increase in CD4<sup>+</sup> count) and you will be better protected against opportunistic infections.

Etravirine does not cure AIDS or completely kill the HIV virus, but helps to prevent further damage by slowing down the production of new viruses. Treatment with etravirine does not reduce the risk of passing infection on to others. You will still be able to pass HIV by sexual contact, by blood transfer or by sharing needles. You should always use appropriate precautions to prevent passing HIV on to others.

## HOW should this drug be taken?

The recommended dose of etravirine is 200 mg (2 x 100 mg) twice daily with a meal. The type of food eaten is unimportant, but etravirine should always be taken with a meal together with other antiretrovirals.

Your dosage is:

100 mg white tablets

\_\_\_\_ tablets (\_\_\_\_mg) twice daily

## What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of etravirine, and it is less than **6 hours** since the appointed time take it as soon as possible, with a meal; then take your next dose at the scheduled time. However, if it is more than **6 hours** since you missed your dose, do not take a dose until your next regularly scheduled dose.

## Why should you not forget to take this drug?

If you miss doses of etravirine, the amount of HIV virus in your blood (known as the viral load) will start increasing again and your immune system will be further damaged. A few missed doses can be enough for etravirine to stop being active. A phenomenon known as **resistance**. When this happens, other antiretrovirals that work in a similar way as etravirine may also become inactive. **Therefore, missing doses of etravirine can decrease treatment options for the future.** Please do not stop etravirine without talking to your doctor first.

## What ADVERSE EFFECTS can this drug cause? What should you do about them?

Some people taking etravirine may develop a mild to moderate rash. Other side effects people experience include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, sleeplessness and anxiety. Patients may develop liver problems and yellowing of the eyes.

**T**ell your doctor immediately if you develop a rash while taking etravirine. In most cases, the rash can be treated with anti-inflammatory drugs or antihistamines. Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any medications to treat the rash.

If you develop a severe rash, or a rash with symptoms such as fever, blistering, mouth sores, red eyes, swelling, muscle or joint aches and a general feeling of being unwell, **STOP** taking etravirine. **Speak with your doctor immediately.**

Your doctor will do blood tests regularly to see if there are any changes in your liver function, cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

**It is important that you keep your doctor appointments and come for your laboratory tests so that your progress can be followed.**

## What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

You must make sure that you are taking the right dose. If you take higher doses of etravirine than what is prescribed, you may increase the chance of having adverse effects. If you take lower doses of etravirine

than what is prescribed, the HIV virus may become resistant to etravirine.

Certain drugs can increase or decrease the effect of etravirine. Also, etravirine might influence the effect of other drugs you are taking. Inform your doctor and pharmacist of all prescribed and non-prescribed drugs you are taking. As well, you should inform them of natural products or recreational (street) drugs you are taking. If you wish to start a new drug or natural product, please consult with your pharmacist before doing so.

The doses of certain drugs may need to be increased if you are taking etravirine.

**Etravirine should NOT be taken if you are pregnant.** Please inform your doctor if you believe you are pregnant or if you wish to become pregnant in the near future. Your doctor can recommend an appropriate treatment to help reduce the risk of passing the HIV virus on to your baby. A registry has been established to follow patients who are exposed to etravirine during pregnancy. Your doctor may register you by calling 1-800-258-4263. Breastfeeding is NOT recommended if you have HIV as you can transmit the virus to your baby through your breast milk.

#### **How should this drug be STORED?**

Etravirine should be stored in a cool (15-30°C) dry place, protected from light and well out of the reach of children, in its original bottle. Ensure that the drug has not expired by checking the expiry date ("EXP") shown on the outside of the package. Do not remove the small desiccant packs

included with your medication.

Do not store in your bathroom or kitchen, as heat and moisture may cause the drug to be less active.

**If you have any questions or concerns about this drug or if you are experiencing adverse effects, please discuss them with your pharmacist, doctor or nurse.**

**Write questions or concerns down to ensure they are addressed.**

The following pharmacist is available to answer questions:

**Pharmacist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: Product Monograph Intelence™ (etravirine). Janssen-Ortho Inc., Toronto, ON, Canada: 2008. Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, 2009.

Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: [www.hivclinic.ca](http://www.hivclinic.ca)

# ***ETRAVIRINE***

## ***MEDICATION***

### ***FACT SHEET***