

RILPIVIRINE

Other NAMES: Edurant™

Why is this drug prescribed?

Rilpivirine 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 for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adult patients who have never taken HIV medications before (treatment-naïve adult patients). It may also be 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. Rilpivirine is used to delay the progression of HIV infection. By using rilpivirine, your immune system should improve (increase in CD4⁺ count) and you will be better protected against opportunistic infections.

Rilpivirine 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 rilpivirine 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 rilpivirine is 25 mg once daily with a meal. Rilpivirine should always be taken with a standard or high-fat meal together with other

antiretrovirals.

Your dosage is:

25 mg white tablets

___ tablet(s) (___mg) once daily

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of rilpivirine, and it is less than **12 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 **12 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 rilpivirine, 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 rilpivirine to stop being active, which is a phenomenon known as **resistance**. When this happens, other antiretrovirals that work in a similar way as rilpivirine may also become inactive. **Therefore, missing doses of rilpivirine can decrease treatment options for the future.** Please do not stop rilpivirine without talking to your doctor first.

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

Some people taking rilpivirine may develop a mild to moderate rash. Tell your doctor

immediately if you develop a rash while taking rilpivirine. 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 rilpivirine. **Speak with your doctor immediately.**

Some people taking rilpivirine may experience depression or mood changes. Contact your doctor if you feel symptoms of sadness or hopelessness, thoughts of hurting yourself, anxiety or restlessness, or have had previous struggles with depression.

Other side effects people experience include headache, trouble sleeping, and changes in body fat distribution.

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 rilpivirine than what is prescribed, you may

increase the chance of having adverse effects. If you take lower doses of rilpivirine than what is prescribed, the HIV virus may become resistant to rilpivirine.

Certain drugs can increase or decrease the effect of rilpivirine.

The following drugs should not be taken with rilpivirine:

- Anticonvulsants (carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin)
- Rifamycins (rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentine)
- Proton pump inhibitors (e.g. esomeprazole, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole, rabeprazole)
- Systemic dexamethasone (more than a single dose)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

Also, rilpivirine 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.

Rilpivirine 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 rilpivirine 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?

Rilpivirine 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 dessicant 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 Edurant™ (rilpivirine). Janssen-Ortho Inc., Toronto, ON, Canada: 2011. Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, 2012.

Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: www.hivclinic.ca

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MEDICATION

FACT SHEET