

# MARAVIROC

**Other NAMES:** Celsentri®

## **WHY is this drug prescribed?**

Maraviroc is a member of a new drug class known as CCR5 antagonists. It binds selectively to CCR5 preventing the HIV-1 virus from entering a cell thereby delaying the progression of HIV infection. Maraviroc is used in combination with anti-retroviral agents in treatment-experienced adults. Such patients have shown resistance to multiple anti-retroviral drugs, and have a confirmed condition of CCR5 tropic HIV-1 infection. Patients receiving maraviroc in a clinical trial lasting 24 weeks improved their immune system (increase in CD4<sup>+</sup> count) and reduced the amount of HIV in the blood (lowered viral “load”), better protecting them against developing (opportunistic) infections.

Maraviroc 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 maraviroc 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?**

Generally, the dose is 300 mg twice daily, with or without food. The dose may be adjusted depending on other antiretroviral agents you are taking.

Your dosage is:

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- 150 mg blue tablet
- 300 mg blue tablet

\_\_\_\_ tablet (\_\_\_\_mg) \_\_\_\_daily

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

If you miss a dose of maraviroc, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is time for your next dose, do not double the dose, just carry on with your regular schedule.

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

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

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

The most common side effects seen in some people taking maraviroc include: cough, fever, and upper respiratory infections. Other commonly reported side effects are muscle aches and pains, dizziness, constipation, itching and difficulty sleeping.

Other side effects experienced less often include heart problems (heart attack, low blood pressure), and an increased ability to fight infections which have been hidden in the body prior to taking maraviroc (herpes, tuberculosis, and pneumonia). Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you experience any new symptoms, particularly if they bother you. They can recommend methods to decrease these adverse effects. If you experience dizziness while taking maraviroc, do not drive or operate heavy machinery.

**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?**

Certain drugs can increase or decrease the effect of maraviroc. Also, maraviroc 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 (herbals) 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 adjusted if you are taking maraviroc.

**Maraviroc 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. A registry has been established to monitor patients on maraviroc while pregnant. Your physician is able to register your exposure to the drug at 1-800-258-4263 and can recommend an appropriate treatment to help reduce the risk of passing the HIV virus on to your baby. 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?**

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

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

***MARAVIROC***

***(Celsentri™)***

***MEDICATION***

***FACT SHEET***

Reference: Product Monograph Celsentri™ (maraviroc). Kirkland, QC, Canada: Pfizer Canada, Inc. 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)