

Triumeq® (Dolutegravir, Abacavir, and Lamivudine)

WHAT is Triumeq®?

- A purple coloured tablet containing 3 different anti-retroviral (anti-HIV) medications:
 - Dolutegravir 50mg
 - Abacavir 600mg
 - Lamivudine 300mg
- Dolutegravir belongs to a group of anti-HIV medications called integrase inhibitors, while abacavir and lamivudine belong to a group of anti-HIV medications called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.
- When dolutegravir, abacavir, and lamivudine are combined, they provide a single tablet treatment option for HIV infection.
- Triumeq® does NOT cure HIV infection.

WHY is Triumeq® prescribed?

- To decrease the amount of virus in your system to undetectable levels
- To keep the immune system strong and prevent opportunistic infections by increasing the CD4 count

HOW should Triumeq® be taken?

- 1 Triumeq® tablet (dolutegravir 50mg, abacavir 600mg, and lamivudine 300mg) orally once a day.
- With or without food.

Important Notes:

- Take Triumeq® as prescribed to ensure it can be as effective and safe as possible.
- Do NOT adjust the dosing regimen on your own or skip doses because:
 - Too little drug can decrease the effectiveness of Triumeq® and increase the risk of drug resistance (when the drug stops working on the virus)
 - Too much drug increases the risk of side effects and harm.

What if you FORGET a dose?

- Take it as soon as possible.
- If it is within 4 hours of your next scheduled dose, just carry on with your regular schedule and consider the forgotten dose as a missed dose.
- Never double-up the dose.

What are the SIDE EFFECTS of Triumeq®? What should you do about them?

Triumeq® is usually well tolerated.

More common side effects include:

- stomach upset (such as nausea, diarrhea)
- headache, dizziness
- insomnia/ abnormal dreams
- fatigue/lack of energy

These effects are usually mild and go away within the first month of starting treatment. If these side effects are bothersome and do not go away, please speak with your doctor or pharmacist.

Less common, but potentially serious, side effects include:

- rash
- signs of liver injury:
 - increases in liver enzymes
 - yellowing of the eyes or skin
 - pale stools, dark urine
 - pain below the right ribs
- severe stomach cramps with vomiting that may be caused by an inflamed pancreas
- allergic type reaction to dolutegravir

Blood tests are done regularly to look for these adverse effects.

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

Rarely, a severe allergic type of reaction called a **HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTION** may occur to the abacavir part of Triumeq®.

- Advances in technology now help detect people at risk of this type of reaction by checking the status of a gene in the body called HLA B5701. If you are HLA B5701 positive, you are at risk of an abacavir hypersensitivity reaction and should **NOT** take abacavir. Although very unlikely, HLA B5701 negative individuals may still develop such a reaction.
- **Symptoms may include: skin rash, flu-like symptoms (fever, fatigue, muscle/joint aches), sore throat, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, facial swelling.**
- **Notify your doctor immediately if you develop a rash or 2 other symptoms listed above.** You will need to be assessed and the drug therapy may need to be stopped.
- If you had a hypersensitivity reaction to abacavir in the past, you must **NEVER** take abacavir again because a life-threatening reaction may result.

What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

- Inform your healthcare providers of all prescription, non-prescription, natural products, and recreational (street) drugs you are taking. Ask your pharmacist for a drug interaction check before starting any new drugs.

Drug Interactions

Do NOT take dofetilide (Tykosyn®) with dolutegravir.

Other drugs that can interact with Triumeq® include:

- Metformin (to treat diabetes)
- Anticonvulsants (carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin)
- St. John's wort
- Rifampin
- Antacids and supplements containing **calcium, magnesium, iron or aluminum can interfere with dolutegravir's absorption**
 - If you take dolutegravir with food, you may take calcium and iron supplements at the same time.
 - Otherwise, take dolutegravir at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after taking antacids, calcium or iron supplements.

How should Triumeq® be STORED?

Triumeq® should be stored in a cool (up to 30°C) place protected from light.

Do NOT store in your bathroom or kitchen. Heat and moisture may cause the drug to be less active.

- Keep out of the reach of children.
- Ensure the drug has not expired by checking the expiry date ("EXP").

References:

Viiiv Healthcare ULC. Product Monograph Triumeq® (dolutegravir/abacavir/lamivudine). Laval, QC. Canada: June 4, 2015.
Song et al. Pharmacokinetics of dolutegravir when administered with mineral supplements in healthy adult subjects. J Clin Pharmacol. 2015;55(5):490-6

Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, September 2015. Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: www.hivclinic.ca

**DOLUTEGRAVIR
+
ABACAVIR
+
LAMIVUDINE

(TRIUMEQ®)

MEDICATION

FACT SHEET**