

Raltegravir (Isentress®)

Raltegravir is a medication to treat human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or to reduce the risk of getting HIV. You should only take this medication with other medications. You should never take raltegravir alone.

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

When and how to take it

Take raltegravir 2 times a day, about 12 hours apart. Take this medication at the same time each day at regular intervals.

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

Missed doses

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

If you do miss a dose of your medication, 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 medication.

Interactions with other medications

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

Raltegravir interacts with many over-the-counter medications used to treat stomach problems, such as heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Some of these medications 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 medications, or other medications used to reduce stomach acid. They will talk to you about if and how you can safely take these medications together.

Side effects

Raltegravir may cause:

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

When to call your physician

Call your physician right away, if you have any of these symptoms:

- 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
- A temperature more than 100.4 degrees F or chills
- Dark-colored urine