

Darunavir

(generic)

This leaflet is designed to give you a general idea of the most important things you need to know about your new medicine. It is not supposed to replace the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with the medicine but is intended to be read alongside it. After reading this leaflet if you have any questions please ask your clinic team.

Clinic contact details:

What is Darunavir?

Darunavir is a tablet. The colour and shape may vary depending on the manufacturer as it is a generic medicine. This medicine is used in combination with other medicines for the treatment of HIV. Please speak to your clinic team if you would like more information about how these drugs work.

How should I take Darunavir?

- The recommended dose is: ONE tablet ONCE a day. Darunavir should be taken in combination with one cobicistat 150mg tablet or one ritonavir 100mg tablet within 30 minutes of eating a meal or snack. The type of food is not important
- Some people may require a different dose of darunavir which needs to be taken twice daily. If you are uncertain about your dose always check with your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you vomit within 4 hours take another dose. If you continue to vomit please contact your clinic.
- Please do not crush, if you have trouble swallowing this tablet please contact your clinic team.
- Please ensure you bring a supply of your HIV medicines if you are being admitted to hospital to ensure you are prescribed the correct medication and that you do not miss any doses.

What if I miss a dose?

HIV medicines work best if there is a constant amount of the medicine in your body. If you are worried about forgetting to take your medicines, speak to your clinic team.

Occasionally you may forget a dose. If this happens, please follow the guidance below and speak with your clinic as soon as possible for advice.



- If you notice within 12 hours of the time you usually take darunavir, you must take the tablet with food as soon as possible. Then take the next dose as usual.
- If you notice 12 hours or more after the time you usually take darunavir, then do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose, with food, at your usual time.
- Never take a double dose to make up for the missed one.

What are the common side effects with Darunavir?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start Darunavir, do not stop taking your medication, instead please contact your clinic team so they can discuss other treatment options with you and/or advise you how to stop safely.

Some examples of the most common side effects are listed below (for a full list of side effects please check the manufacturer information leaflet):



“Stomach” side effects: Feeling sick (nausea), vomiting, diarrhoea, pain bloating and indigestion.

“Head” side effects: Headache, dizziness and insomnia.



Changes in blood tests: Changes in some of your liver or kidney tests, or changes in cholesterol.



Other: rash, fatigue (tiredness), itching (pruritus), diabetes, tingling or numbness in the hands and feet (peripheral neuropathy), swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat (angioedema), low red blood cell count (anaemia).

Can I take HIV medication if I’m pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you become pregnant or are planning to start a family, do not stop taking your medication. Speak to your clinic so that your care can be managed appropriately. It is important you are on effective treatment to reduce the risk to your unborn child.

What medicines should I avoid with Darunavir?

It is important that you tell anyone prescribing you medication about any medicines you are taking. This includes prescribed medicines, recreational or party drugs, and/or supplements you buy over the counter. Always tell your clinic team if you are taking (note this is not an exhaustive list of medicines):

Medicine	Why this is important
St John’s Wort (a herbal remedy used to treat depression) Anti-TB drugs: Rifampicin & rifabutin Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin. (Carbamazepine is also sometimes used to treat pain.) Treatment for prostate cancer: Enzalutamide	These medicines reduce levels of darunavir in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on darunavir before they prescribe these medicines.
Statins (cholesterol-lowering medicines)	Some statins such as simvastatin are affected by darunavir which may lead to more side effects. Your clinic doctor will help choose the right statin for you.
Steroid containing medicines including inhalers, nasal sprays, eyedrops, creams or injections	Steroid containing products can interact with darunavir and can build up in your body leading to side effects. Check with the doctor or pharmacist whether nasal sprays or eye drops used for hay fever or other allergies are safe to use alongside darunavir. Your clinic team will be able to advise you on alternative options.
Antiplatelets (e.g. clopidogrel) and anticoagulants (e.g. rivaroxaban)	The levels of some anticoagulants and antiplatelets in your blood are changed by darunavir. Speak to your clinic team before taking any of these medicines.
Antibiotics and antifungals	Some antibiotics and antifungals can change the amount of darunavir in your blood. Your doctor will need to check for interactions with you before prescribing these.