

# Raltegravir 400mg tablets | (Isentress®)

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 Raltegravir?

Raltegravir 400mg comes as a pink oval-shaped tablet, marked with '227' on one side and plain on the other side.

Raltegravir comes in 2 strengths, a 600mg tablet and a 400mg tablet. Please make sure you have the correct strength.

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 Raltegravir?

- The recommended dose is: ONE tablet TWICE a day.
- If you vomit within 2 hours take another dose. If you continue to vomit, please contact your clinic.
- Please do not crush these tablets, 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 miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember.
- If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at your usual time. Speak to your clinic if you are missing multiple doses as they may be able to support you.
- Never take a double dose to make up for the missed one.



## What are the common side effects with Raltegravir?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start Raltegravir, 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):



Head side effects: headache, trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, abnormal behaviour, depression, dizziness and tiredness.



Stomach side effects: stomach pain, reduced appetite, wind (flatulence), nausea, vomiting.



Other: a rash, weakness, a temperature (fever) and changes to some of your blood tests.

## 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 Raltegravir?

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
Calcium and magnesium supplements (including multivitamins)	Medicines or supplements containing calcium or magnesium can stop you from absorbing Raltegravir properly. Your clinic team may advice twice daily administration of Raltegravir if you are on these medicines. Raltegravir should be taken at least 4 hours before or after calcium or magnesium supplements and multivitamins
Iron and zinc supplements	Iron and zinc supplements can stop you from absorbing Raltegravir properly. Your clinic team may advice twice daily administration of Raltegravir if you are on these medicines. Raltegravir can be taken at least 2 hours before or 2 hours after iron or zinc supplements.
Antacids (containing aluminium and/or magnesium)	Antacids which contain aluminium /magnesium can stop you absorbing Raltegravir properly. You should not use antacids containing aluminium /magnesium if you are on Raltegravir. Your clinic can advise on which antacids you can use.
St John's Wort (a herbal remedy used to treat depression)	These medicines reduce levels of Raltegravir in the body, stopping it from working. Your dose of Raltegravir may need to be changed if you are any of these medications. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Raltegravir before they prescribe these medicines.
Anti-TB drugs: Rifampicin	
Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin. (Carbamazepine is also sometimes used to treat pain.)	
Treatment for prostate cancer: Enzalutamide	