

How to take your

INVIRASE

(also called saquinavir)



Protease Inhibitor (PI)

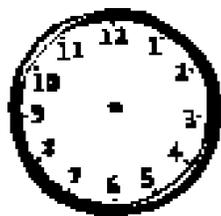
What is Invirase?

Invirase is a strong medicine that can reduce the amount of HIV in your body. Invirase fights HIV best when you take it together with one or more other anti-HIV medicines. Invirase is often used in combination with another protease inhibitor called Norvir (Ritonavir). Fortovase is a different form of this medicine that is usually taken without other protease inhibitors.

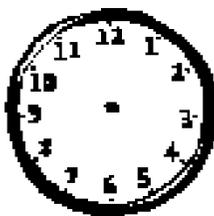
How many pills do I take? And when do I take them?

Each day, take ____ pills every ____ hours.

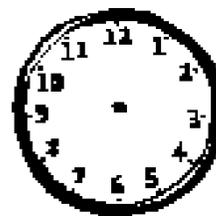
Take your pills at these times EVERY DAY:



Morning



Afternoon



Evening

Important: To be sure there is always enough Invirase in your body to fight HIV, take your pills as close to these times as possible. And be sure to take the right number of pills each time.

Special Instructions for taking Invirase:

- Take your pills while you eat a meal or snack. Your body absorbs Invirase best when you have food in your stomach.



What if I forget to take my pills on time?

- When you notice that you missed a dose, take your pills right away.

Then, for your NEXT DOSE:

- If your next planned pill-taking time is ____ or more hours away, take your next dose at the planned time.



- If your next planned pill-taking time is less than ____ hours away, DO NOT take your next dose at the planned time. Instead, wait four hours and then take your next dose.

If you forget more than one dose in a week, call your doctor or nurse to talk about what to do.

What should I do if I have side effects?

Some people who take Fortovase have side effects (unwanted effects of the medicine). Possible side effects include:



- diarrhea
- feeling sick to your stomach

If you have these or other side effects:

- Keep in mind that most side effects go away in few days or weeks.
- Call your doctor or nurse. They may have ways to relieve your side effects.
- DO NOT take fewer pills or stop taking your pills. Talk to your doctor first.
- Try the ideas in the tip sheet, *“Coping with Side Effects”*.

Important: Some possible side effects of Invirase can only be discovered by lab tests done by a doctor or nurse. So be sure to go to all your doctor’s visits.



What are the medicines I should NOT use now that I’m taking Invirase?

Some medicines don’t mix well with Invirase. Taking Invirase when you are using these medicines could make you very sick or cause the medicines not to work.



Your doctor knows which medicines are safe to take with Invirase and which are not. **Be sure you have told your doctor about ALL the medicines you are taking.** This includes:

- medicines prescribed to you by a doctor
- medicines you can buy without a prescription
- herbal medicines
- street drugs

Call your doctor or nurse if:



- you have questions about how to take Invirase
- you are being bothered by side effects
- you feel like stopping or taking less Invirase
- you are having trouble taking Invirase on time
- you want to start taking ANY medicine you are not now taking.

DON'T FORGET: You can still spread the virus.

The anti-HIV medicines you are taking can help you stay healthier longer. But they do not cure HIV. To avoid passing HIV to others:
Practice safe sex. Don't share needles or syringes.

Developed by John Snow, Inc. and JSI Clinical Research. Boston, MA, 2002.

This document may be reproduced for educational purposes, provided it is used in its entirety and appropriate credit is given.

