

Atazanavir | (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 Atazanavir?

Atazanavir is a capsule, 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 Atazanavir?

- The recommended dose is: ONE tablet ONCE a day, with food.
- If you vomit within 2 hours, take another dose. If you continue to vomit please contact your clinic.
- Please do not open the capsules, 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 Atazanavir, you must take the tablet as soon as possible. Then take the next dose as usual.
- If you notice 12 hours or more after the time you usually take Atazanavir, then do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at your usual time.
- Never take a double dose to make up for the missed one.

What are the common side effects with Atazanavir?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start Atazanavir, 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, insomnia, tiredness and abnormal dreams.



'Stomach' side effects: Feeling sick (nausea), vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and wind.

 Other side effects: Rash, jaundice (yellowing of eyes or skin) and changes to liver function tests and cholesterol levels.

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 Atazanavir?

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) | St John's Wort can reduce the levels of Atazanavir in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before taking this medicine. |
| Cholesterol medicines (statins) | Some statins such as simvastatin can increase the risk of a serious reaction caused by statins. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines. |
| Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine (Carbamazepine is also sometimes used to treat pain.) | Some anti-seizure medicines can reduce the levels of Atazanavir in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines |
| Anti-clotting medicines e.g. rivaroxaban, clopidogrel | Atazanavir can affected the levels of these medicines in the body resulting in a higher risk of side effects or a reduction in their intended effect. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines |
| Treatment for prostate cancer: Enzalutamide | Enzalutamide can reduce levels of atazanavir in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines. |
| Anti-TB medicines (e.g. rifampicin) | Some of these medicines can reduce the levels of Atazanavir in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines. |
| Medicines for stomach acid, stomach ulcers, heartburn or acid reflux disease | Medicines such as omeprazole and lansoprazole (known as proton pump inhibitors) can reduce the absorption of Atazanavir. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines. Antacids (such as Rennie or Gaviscon) should be taken at least 2 hours before or at least 1 hour after you take your Atazanavir. |
| Steroid inhalers or nasal sprays (e.g. Flixonase, Seretide) | Atazanavir can increase the level of some steroid inhalers or nasal sprays leading to side effects. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Atazanavir before they prescribe these medicines. |