

Dolutegravir | (Tivicay®)

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 Dolutegravir?

Dolutegravir is a yellow, round tablet with curved sides, marked with 'SV 572' on one side and '50' on the other.



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 Dolutegravir?

- The recommended dose is: ONE tablet ONCE a day. Dolutegravir can be taken with or without food. However, some people may need to take ONE tablet TWICE a day. When dolutegravir is taken twice a day, you might need to take it with food to help your body absorb more of the medicine. Your clinic team will tell you which dose is right for you.
- If you vomit within 2 hours, take another dose. If you continue to vomit please contact your
- 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.

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- If you miss a dose of dolutegravir and remember within 20 hours of the time you were due to take it, take a dose as soon as possible and then take your next dose at the usual time.
 - If you remember after 20 hours, just 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 Dolutegravir?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start dolutegravir 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's information leaflet):



'Head' side effects: headache, dizziness, trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, or low mood

'Stomach side effects: nausea, diarrhoea, stomach discomfort and pain, wind (flatulence), vomiting

Other side effects: rash, lack of energy, itch, changes in your blood tests

IMPORTANT warnings:

Skin rash – Rarely some people will develop an allergic reaction to dolutegravir. If you get a **RASH** or a hypersensitivity reaction (which is a rash accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, lack of energy (fatigue), muscle or joint aches, blistering, sore mouth or eyes, swelling of the face or mouth (angioedema), causing difficulty in breathing, or generally feeling unwell **STOP** taking your dolutegravir and contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse **IMMEDIATELY**. DO NOT start taking the dolutegravir again unless you are told to do so by a member of your clinic team.

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 Dolutegravir?

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 for depression (a herbal remedy used to treat depression) Some treatments for cancer e.g a treatment for prostate cancer: Enzalutamide	These medicines reduce levels of dolutegravir in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on dolutegravir before they prescribe these medicines.
Calcium, iron, magnesium or zinc supplements (including multivitamins)	Dolutegravir should be taken at least 2 hours before taking these supplements, or take dolutegravir 6 hours after taking supplements containing calcium, iron or magnesium. Dolutegravir can also be taken together with calcium, iron, magnesium or zinc if taken with food .
Antacids (indigestion remedies) containing magnesium and aluminium	Antacids containing magnesium and aluminium should be taken 2 hours after your dose of dolutegravir, or 6 hours before your dose of dolutegravir.
Metformin	Dolutegravir increases levels of metformin, which can impact your kidneys. Speak to your clinic team if you are taking metformin.
Anti-TB drugs: Rifampicin Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin. (Carbamazepine is also sometimes used to treat pain.)	Your dose of dolutegravir will need to be increased if you are taking these medicines. Please tell your clinic team if you are taking any of these medicines .