



The Information Exchange

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ETRAVIRINE (Intelence®)

Please read this factsheet carefully along with the patient information leaflet before taking your medicine. If you have any questions or are unsure about anything, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Etravirine belongs to a class of drugs called **non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs)**. NNRTIs are used for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other anti-HIV drugs. Please speak to your clinic doctor or pharmacist if you would like more information about how these drugs work.

Before taking etravirine

Tell your doctor about:

- All other drugs you are taking, including any that you buy over the counter in a community pharmacy and any herbal medicines or recreational drugs.
- Any previous allergy to any medicines.
- If you have ever had any liver disease.
- If you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy.
- If you are breastfeeding.

Taking your etravirine

- Etravirine is available as a white to off white oval tablet containing 100mg of etravirine.
- The usual dose is 200mg (2 tablets) twice daily, although in some cases the doctor may ask you to take 400mg (4 tablets) once a day.
- The doses should be spaced evenly throughout the day: try to take the doses as close to possible to twelve hours apart if you are taking it twice a day and twenty four hours apart if you take it once a day, and at the same times each day.
- Etravirine should always be taken **with** a meal.
- Etravirine works best if there is a constant amount in your blood stream. It is therefore important to take it regularly. If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose anyway, forget about the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

Do not run out of etravirine. If you are going on holiday and need additional supplies, tell your doctor. When receiving a supply from pharmacy, ensure that you have an adequate supply to last until your next appointment.

Other drugs and etravirine

Etravirine is metabolised (processed in the body) by the liver. Some other drugs are metabolised in the same way. This is why it is important to tell your doctor about all the medicines that you take even if you only take them occasionally, including herbal and recreational drugs.

Examples of some drugs that are metabolised in the same way as etravirine and therefore should **NOT** be taken are rifampicin, ciclosporin, certain antifungals, tacrolimus, phenytoin, phenobarbitone, carbamazepine, certain benzodiazepines, St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and certain antiarrhythmics.

Other examples of drugs that are metabolised in the same way as etravirine include drugs for erectile dysfunction (e.g. Viagra[®]), warfarin, protease inhibitors, drugs to lower cholesterol, ergotamine, and certain blood pressure medicines. Your doctor may alter your doses if you are taking one of these drugs.

Etravirine can stop oral contraceptives from working, and you may need to use an alternative or additional form of contraception, e.g. barrier methods. Discuss this with your clinic doctor.

Side effects

Etravirine, like all other medicines, has some side effects. The most common ones affecting more than 1 in every 100 patients are:

- Nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain and flatulence
- Skin rash - **If you experience a MILD skin rash do not stop taking your Etravirine but contact your doctor and they will advise you what to do. If you experience a SEVERE SKIN RASH or hypersensitivity reaction (which is a rash accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, facial swelling, difficulty in breathing or swallowing muscle or joint aches or general malaise STOP taking your Etravirine and contact your doctor IMMEDIATELY.**
- Peripheral neuropathy (pain, numbness or tingling in the hands and feet)

If you experience any of these side effects or any other new symptoms after starting etravirine, tell your doctor who will advise you what to do. If you decide to stop taking etravirine it is important that you tell your doctor so that he or she can discuss other treatment options with you.

A condition called pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) has occurred rarely in patients who are taking Etravirine (about 7 patients in 1000). Pancreatitis is a dangerous inflammation of the pancreas. Tell your doctor straight away if you develop stomach pain, nausea or vomiting.

Admission to hospital

If you are admitted to hospital please bring all your medicines with you. This is so the nurses can continue to give them to you on the ward. This is especially important for anti-HIV drugs, as they have to be taken regularly.

Storing your Etravirine

Etravirine should be stored at room temperature in the original container.

This information was prepared by the HIV/GUM pharmacy department at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. If you have any queries regarding the information, please call Kobler Pharmacy on 020 3315 5604

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