



**The Information Exchange**

St. Stephen's Centre  
369 Fulham Road  
London SW10 9NH

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3315 5929

Fax: +44 (0) 20 3315 5595

E-mail: [infoex@chelwest.nhs.uk](mailto:infoex@chelwest.nhs.uk)

[www.ststephensvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.ststephensvolunteers.org.uk)

## RALTEGRAVIR (Isentress®)

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

**Raltegravir**, also known as **MK-0518** and by the brand name **ISENTRESS®**, belongs to a class of drugs called **integrase inhibitors**. Integrase inhibitors 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 Raltegravir

Tell your doctor about:

- All other drugs that 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 other medicines
- If you have ever had any liver disease
- If you are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant

### Taking your Raltegravir

- Raltegravir is a pink oval tablet containing 400mg of raltegravir.
- The recommended dose of raltegravir is 400mg (1 tablet) twice daily with or without food.
- The doses should be spaced evenly throughout the day: try to take the doses as close as possible to twelve hours apart, and at the same times each day.
- Raltegravir, like all antiretrovirals, works best if there is a constant amount in your bloodstream. It is therefore very important to take the tablets regularly. If you forget to take 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 Raltegravir. 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 Raltegravir

Raltegravir might interact with other medicines so please inform your doctor or pharmacist of any other medication, herbal remedies or recreational drugs that you are taking. Rifampicin and omeprazole may alter levels of Raltegravir and your doctor may adjust your dose of Raltegravir.

**Side effects**

Raltegravir, like all other medicines, has some side effects although not everybody gets them. The most common side effects affecting more than 1 in every 100 patients were:

- Abdominal pain
- Trouble sleeping
- Dizziness
- Rash
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Joint pain
- headache

**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 medications as they need to be taken regularly.

**Storing Raltegravir**

Raltegravir should be stored at room temperature and kept 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 0203 315 5604

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