



ATAZANAVIR

a-tah-za-nah-veer

What does it do?

Atazanavir is used with other medicines to control HIV.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have heart or liver problems, diabetes, or haemophilia.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *atazanavir* as directed with food and a glass of water. It is very important to take it regularly. If you often forget to take *atazanavir*, it may not work as well.

You must take *atazanavir* and *ritonavir* together at the same time.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Atazanavir with *ritonavir* can react with many medicines, sometimes with severe results.

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking including vitamins, herbal products, or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---|
| Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain Severe stomach pain, nausea Chest pain, fainting | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Lower back pain, pink/red/brown pee (may be a kidney stone) Peeing more often, feeling thirsty | Tell your doctor |
| Headache, dizziness Muscle aches and pains Stomach upset | Tell your doctor if troublesome |
| Skin rash | This can occur in the first few weeks. Rarely, this may be serious. Ring your clinic to check |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *atazanavir* to check if it is causing problems with your liver. You will also need blood tests to check your viral load.
- *Atazanavir* may cause kidney stones. Drinking plenty of water can help to prevent this.
- As your HIV comes under control, your immune system begins to recover. It may start fighting infections better than before which may make you unwell for a while. Your doctor may call this Immune Reconstitution Syndrome.
- Treatment for HIV may change your body shape. These changes can include fat build-up, fat loss, or both. Discuss this with your doctor.
- Do not stop taking *atazanavir* without talking to your doctor first.