

Emtricitabine

em-tri-SIT-uh-bean

Brand Name: Emtriva

Drug Class: Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

Emtricitabine, also known as Emtriva or FTC, is a type of medicine called a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). NRTIs block reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Emtricitabine in capsule form was approved by the FDA on July 2, 2003, for use with other antiretroviral agents in the treatment of HIV infection in adults. Emtricitabine oral solution was approved by the FDA on September 28, 2005, and is now approved for use with other anti-HIV drugs in the treatment of HIV-1 infection in patients older than 3 months of age.

This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Form/Administration

Emtricitabine comes in capsule and liquid form and is taken by mouth.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of emtricitabine for adults is 200 mg as a capsule or 240 mg (24 ml) as an oral solution once a day. The recommended dose of emtricitabine for children is based on age and weight. Children who weigh more than 33 kg (72.8 lbs) and who can swallow an intact capsule should take 200 mg in capsule form once a day. Individuals with decreased kidney function may need to take emtricitabine less than once a day. Other individuals may also benefit from different doses of emtricitabine; doses for elderly individuals are currently being studied. Individuals should always take emtricitabine as prescribed by their doctors.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, emtricitabine can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include nausea, vomiting,

abdominal pain, lack of appetite, weight loss, difficulty breathing, and fatigue. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of emtricitabine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include headache, diarrhea, nausea, rash, and skin discoloration. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Emtricitabine, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Emtricitabine AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Emtricitabine
Gilead Sciences Inc
333 Lakeside Dr
Foster City, CA 94404
(800) 445-3235

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For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

Emtricitabine



For More Information (cont.)

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET