

# Adefovir dipivoxil

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**Brand Name:** Hepsera

**Drug Class:** Opportunistic Infection and Other Drugs

Adefovir dipivoxil, also known as Hepsera, belongs to the class of medicines called antivirals. Antivirals kill viruses or stop viruses from multiplying. Adefovir is a nucleotide analogue that blocks hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA polymerase, a protein that HBV needs to make more copies of itself.

## HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Adefovir is approved by the FDA for the treatment of chronic HBV infection, a common coinfection in patients with HIV/AIDS.

## Dosage Form/Administration

Adefovir comes in tablet form and is taken by mouth.

## Contraindications

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

## Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, adefovir may cause some unwanted effects. Although not all of these side effects are known, headache, abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, bloating, indigestion, and flatulence have been reported. More serious symptoms include loss of muscle control, unusual tiredness, trouble breathing, dizziness, yellowing of the eyes or skin, dark urine, and lack of appetite. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects.

## 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 Adefovir dipivoxil, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Adefovir dipivoxil AND HIV Infections.

## Manufacturer Information

Hepsera  
Gilead Sciences Inc  
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Foster City, CA 94404  
(800) 445-3235

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## For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- 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](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help) Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET