

Atripla® [uh TRIP luh] (efavirenz / emtricitabine/ tenofovir)



There are five classes of HIV medications (meds). They will not prevent or cure HIV. They limit how the virus makes copies of itself in your body. Atripla has two classes of meds. Two are in the class called *nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs or Nukes)*. One is in the class called *non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs or Non Nukes)*.

Who Should Take Atripla?

Only people who are 18 or older should take Atripla.

Before you start Atripla, tell your doctor if you:

- Have liver or kidney disease
- Have Hepatitis B
- Are pregnant or breastfeed your baby
- Have bone problems
- Have had seizures
- Take St. John's Wort

How is Atripla Taken?

Atripla comes in a pill. The pills are pink and marked with "123" on one side. The other side is blank.

The pill should be taken by mouth at bedtime. Do not eat for two hours before you take Atripla.

Talk to your doctor before you eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice when you take this med.

Side Effects

It is common to have side effects when you start HIV treatment. Make sure your doctor knows about any allergies and side effects you have had to other meds. Your doctor may change the type and/or amount of your meds.

What are the common side effects of Atripla?

- Rash – you should stop Atripla if you get a severe rash with blisters in your mouth or a fever
- New spots or freckles on your skin
- Upset stomach

More severe and rare side effects of Atripla are:

- A higher risk of *lactic acidosis*. This is a build up of lactic acid in the blood.
- A higher risk of liver problems like Hepatitis B
- Mental health symptoms such as severe depression, thoughts of suicide, strange or violent thoughts. This is most common in people who inject drugs or have a mental illness.

Take your HIV treatment just how your doctor tells you. Do not miss any doses, even if you feel well. When the meds are in your body, they will help stop the HIV.

Bring all of your meds and any supplements to your doctor visits. A "Brown Bag Check-up" can also help your doctor keep your records up to date and help you get better quality care.

- Nervous system problems such as:
 - Feel dizzy
 - Hard to fall or stay asleep
 - Hard to focus
 - Feel sleepy
 - Memory loss
 - Strange dreams
 - You see and hear things that are not there

Always talk to your doctor before you stop any treatment they prescribe for you.

How Does Atripla Mix with Other Meds?

You and your doctor should know all the kinds of meds you use. When you take two or more meds it can cause a bad *interaction*. This means that the meds do not mix well. This can lead to harmful side effects hurt your treatment.



Talk to your doctor first if you take meds to treat:

- Infections
- Seizures, tremors or shakes
- High cholesterol
- Fungus
- Heroin withdrawal
- Migraine headaches
- Anxiety or problems with sleep

Note: St. John's Wort should not be taken with Atripla.

Women who use birth control pills, patches, rings, shots or implants should use a second form of birth control (like condoms).



For more information

Contact your Registered Nurse Care Manager, or call Positive Healthcare's Nurse Advice Line at: (800) 797-1717. Visit the Medication Guide on the FDA website at: <http://www.fda.gov>