

Emtriva® [em-treev'-ah] (emtricitabine)



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. Emtriva is part of the class of drugs called *nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors* (NRTIs or Nukes).

Who Should Take Emtriva?

People three months and older can take Emtriva.

Talk to your doctor before you start Emtriva if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeed your baby
- Have kidney or liver problems

How Is Emtriva Taken?

Take Emtriva by mouth once a day with or without food.

Emtriva should be taken with at least two other anti-HIV drugs.

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 Emtriva?

- Headache
- Loose stool
- Feel sick to your stomach

Other side effects are:

- Hard to fall or stay asleep
- Strange dreams
- Feel dizzy or light headed
- Stomach pain
- Skin turns colors
- Muscle pain

What are the more severe side and rare side effects of Emtriva?

- Lactic acidosis. This is a build up of lactate in the blood.
- Liver damage. Tell your doctor if you have ever had liver disease.
- Changes in how the body stores fat

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

Note: People with Hepatitis B may get worse when they stop Emtriva. A doctor may test for Hepatitis B before they give you Emtriva.

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, it 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.

How Does Emtriva Mix with Other Meds?

You and your doctor should know all the kinds of meds that you take. 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 and hurt your treatment.



Do not take Emtriva with:

- Epivir® (lamivudine – 3TC)
- Epzicom®
- Combivir®
- Trizivir®



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>