

## **Viramune®; Viramune® XR™**

### **[VIH-rah-mune]**

### **(nevirapine)**



Viramune



Viramune XR

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

### **Who Should Take Viramune?**

- Adults and children can use Viramune. Adults use one type and children and infants use another.
- Pregnant woman can use it to prevent the spread of HIV to their unborn baby.
- Before you start Viramune, tell your doctor if you have liver problems.

### **How Is Viramune Taken?**

- Viramune comes in a pill or a liquid.
- It is given once a day for two weeks and twice a day after that.
- It should be taken with water.

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.

- It can be taken with or without food.
- If you take the liquid, shake it well and use care when you measure it.

### **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.

People who take Viramune have a higher risk of:

- Liver damage. Anyone who takes Viramune may get severe liver problems.
  - Stop taking Viramune if you:
    - Feel sick to your stomach or throw up
    - Feel tired
    - Have yellow skin or eyes
    - Have itchy skin
    - Have dark tea-colored pee
- Severe rash and skin problems. This most often happens in the first 6 weeks of treatment.
  - You should stop Viramune if you get a severe rash with blisters in your mouth or fever
- Changes in how the body stores fat

If a person has an allergic reaction to Viramune, he or she can never take this drug again.

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

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.

To avoid major side effects, a half dose of Viramune is taken for two weeks. If there are no bad effects, the drug is increased to the full dose.

## How Does Viramune Mix with Other Meds?

You and your doctor should know all the kinds of meds 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.



- Herbs like St. John's Wort
- Other HIV meds



### **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>

Tell your doctor if you have, or have ever had liver disease or hepatitis B or C.

Talk to your doctor if you take meds to treat:

- Blood clots
- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Heartbeat problems
- Fungus
- Infections
- Migraine headaches
- Seizures, tremors or shakes
- Heroin withdrawal

There might be other meds that don't mix well:

- Birth control pills, patches, rings, shots or implants. You should use a second form of birth control (like condoms).
- Immune system suppressants