Aptivus® [AP-TI-VUS] (tipranavir)

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. Aptivus is part of the class of HIV meds called *protease inhibitors* (PIs).

It must be used with Norvir® (ritonavir) and at least two other HIV meds. Aptivus can fight strains of HIV that resist other PIs. To prevent resistance, take all your meds at the right time. Also, practice safer sex (use condoms).

Who Should Take Aptivus?

Aptivus should only be taken when other anti-HIV meds fail. Children and women who breastfeed should not take Aptivus.

Talk to your doctor before you start Aptivus if you:

- have liver problems
- have a sulfa allergy
- take statins for high cholesterol

Be sure to see your doctor every 3 to 4 months. They will test how well your body responds to Aptivus.

How Is Aptivus Taken?

Aptivus is taken in a pill twice a day. The pills must be swallowed whole and taken with a full meal. Do not chew Aptivus.

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 Aptivus?

- Loose stool
- Sick to your stomach
- Stomach pain
- Fever
- Headaches
- You may feel tired for no reason

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

- Liver problems
- Bleeding in the brain
- Rashes (Might affect people who react to sulfa meds or women on birth control.)
- High blood sugar and diabetes
- High cholesterol
- A build up of fat on the back of the neck, upper chest or belly

There is a risk of stroke with Aptivus. Tell your doctor if you have been hurt, had a blood disease or recent surgery.

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

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.

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How Does Aptivus 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 side effects and hurt your treatment.

You should not take other PIs with Aptivus/Norvir. Aptivus and Norvir do not mix well with certain other anti-HIV meds. Aptivus and Norvir should be taken at least two hours before or two hours after you take Videx®.

Aptivus and Norvir can affect how well other meds work.

- Birth control. Use a second form of birth control (like condoms) when you take Aptivus.
- Lipitor. Aptivus/Norvir can raise Lipitor levels. It is best to begin Lipitor at a very low dose and then increase
- Pain killers. Aptivus and Norvir lower the amount of some pain killers in the blood. .
- Alcohol treatment, Both Aptivus and Norvir contain a little alcohol.
- Depression. The herb St. John's Wort lowers the amount of some PIs in the blood. Do not use it with Aptivus.

Tell your doctor if you also take meds to treat:

- Tuberculosis (TB) or Mycobacterium Avium complex (MAC)
- Infections
- Parasites
- Fungus
- Allergies
- Blood clots
- Mental health issues
- Alcohol abuse
- Depression.
- Heroin withdrawal
- Enlarged prostate
- Sex function problems
- Acid reflux or heartburn.
- Heart disease
- Heartbeat problems
- High cholesterol
- Migraine headaches
- Pain

Tell your doctors and pharmacists all the meds you take such as sedatives, over-the-counter meds and herbs.

For more information:
Contact your Registered Nurse Care Manager, or call PHP Nurse Advice Line at: (800) 797-1717.
Visit the Medication Guide on the FDA website at: http://www.fda.gov.

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