



## Invirase® [in-ver-ase] (saquinavir)



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. Invirase is in the class of meds called *protease inhibitors* (PIs).

### Who Should Take Invirase?

Invirase is taken with Norvir® (ritonavir). It is for people who are new to HIV treatment.

Only adults age 16 and older should use Invirase.

Before you start Invirase, tell your doctor if you:

- Have liver problems
- Have heart problems
- Are pregnant or breastfeed your baby
- Take statins for high cholesterol

### How Is Invirase Taken?

- Invirase comes in a pill
- It is taken twice a day with food. You can take it up to two hours after a full meal.
- Invirase should always be taken with Norvir® (ritonavir)

- Talk to your doctor before you eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice when you take this med
- Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose

### 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 Invirase?

- Feel sick to your stomach
- Throw up
- Feel tired
- Loose stool
- Changes in how the body stores fat
- Rashes, dry skin and dry lips
- Muscle or back pain
- Heartburn, gas or feel bloated

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

- Liver problems
- High blood sugar and diabetes

Note: Side effects happen more if you have:

- High cholesterol.
- Diabetes, heart, kidney or liver disease
- A history of alcohol abuse

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.

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

### How Does Invirase 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.



Talk to your doctor if you take meds to treat:

- Allergies
- Acid reflux or heartburn
- Hard to pee
- Asthma
- Mycobacterium Aviumcomplex (MAC)
- Fungus
- Malaria
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Skin infections
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Heartbeat problems
- High cholesterol
- Inflammation
- Migraines
- Pain
- Seizures, tremors or shakes

- Mental health issues
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Psychosis
- Heroin withdrawal
- Problems with sex function

Also, be careful if you mix Invirase with:

- Birth control pills, rings or patches
- Blood thinners
- Immune system suppressors
- Other HIV meds

#### **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>

