



## Viracept® [VI-ra-cept] (nelfinavir)



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

### Who Should Take Viracept?

Any person from the age of 2 and older can use Viracept.

Talk to your doctor if you take statins for high cholesterol.

### How Is Viracept Taken?

Viracept is given as a pill or a powder. It is taken two or three times a day.

Viracept should be taken with a full meal. The drug works best when the meal is high in fat.

The powder can be mixed with water, milk, formula, soymilk and other dairy foods, such as pudding or ice cream.

### 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 Viracept?

- Loose stool
- Gas
- Stomach pain
- Sick to your stomach
- Allergic reaction. You may feel weak or get a rash. If these happen you should see a doctor right away.

More severe and rare side effects of Viracept are:

- Changes in how the body stores fat
- High cholesterol levels
- High blood sugar or diabetes
- More bleeding. This happens more to people who have hemophilia, a disorder in which the blood can not clot.

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.

## How Does Viracept Mix with Other Meds?

Talk to your doctor if you take meds to treat:

- Acid reflux or heartburn
- Allergies
- Fungus
- Heartbeat problems
- High cholesterol
- Infections
- Malaria
- Prolactin control
- Migraine headaches
- Parkinson's disease
- Seizures
- Problems with sex function

There might be 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) with Viracept.
- Sedatives
- Immune system suppressants
- Other HIV 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.



### **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>

