



Patient Information About INVIRASE (in-ver-ase)

INVIRASE

(saquinavir mesylate)

CAPSULES and TABLETS

Generic Name: Saquinavir mesylate (sa-KWIN-a-veer mes-il-late)

Rx only

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with INVIRASE.

Please read this product information carefully before you start taking INVIRASE and each time you renew your prescription. There may be new information. Reading this information can help you take this medicine correctly. However, it is not a substitute for your doctor's advice about the safety and benefits of INVIRASE. You should talk to your doctor about INVIRASE as part of your long-term treatment plan for HIV before you start taking your medication and ask any questions you may have at regular checkups. Remember, you should remain under a doctor's care when using INVIRASE and should not change or stop your therapy without talking to your doctor first.

What is INVIRASE?

INVIRASE belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitors. INVIRASE Capsules and Tablets in combination with other anti-HIV drugs are used for the treatment of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

How does INVIRASE work?

INVIRASE fights HIV as it grows inside cells by blocking an enzyme (protease) that HIV needs to reproduce.

Who should not take INVIRASE?

Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction (e.g. trouble breathing or severe rash) to INVIRASE or any of the ingredients in the capsule or tablet should not take it. The use of INVIRASE in patients under 16 years of age, over 65 years of age, or patients with severe liver problems has not been fully investigated.

How should INVIRASE/NORVIR (ritonavir) be taken?

- The recommended dosage of INVIRASE in combination with NORVIR (ritonavir) is INVIRASE 5 capsules or 2 tablets twice a day taken with 1 capsule of NORVIR twice a day. Your doctor may change the dose of other medications you may be taking for other illnesses.
- INVIRASE must be taken along with NORVIR (ritonavir).

- INVIRASE must be taken with meals or up to 2 hours after a meal—but it is easiest to remember if you take it with your meals. When INVIRASE is taken without food, the amount of INVIRASE in the blood is lower and may not fight HIV as well.
- When taking INVIRASE and other anti-HIV medicines, it is very important to follow the directions exactly and take your medication every day. If you skip doses—or take less than the prescribed dose—the medicine will not work as well, and your disease could get worse.
 - If you miss a dose, you should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, do not double the dose.

What results have been seen with INVIRASE?

INVIRASE with NORVIR has been shown to reduce the amount of virus in the blood (“viral load”) and increase CD4 (T) cells when taken with other HIV therapy.

What are the side effects of INVIRASE?

People treated with INVIRASE in combination with NORVIR may have side effects. The majority of these have been described as mild. In clinical studies of patients who received saquinavir in combination with NORVIR and other HIV drugs, the side effects seen most often were: body fat change (5.4%), nausea (10.8%), vomiting (7.4%), diarrhea (8.1%), stomach pain (6.1%), tiredness (6.1%), and pneumonia (5.4%).

Diabetes (new onset or worsening) and increased blood sugar levels have been reported with the use of protease inhibitors. In addition, increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia has also been associated with these drugs.

When INVIRASE is taken with NORVIR, some patients may experience large increases in triglyceride and lipid levels. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attack and stroke due to increases in triglyceride and cholesterol levels caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medications. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

These are not the only side effects that can occur with INVIRASE. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects and laboratory abnormalities that may accompany this medication.

If any side effects or unusual symptoms do occur, contact your doctor immediately. Do not stop or decrease your dose on your own. Lowering the dose may make INVIRASE less effective in fighting HIV.

Are there other medications that I should not take with INVIRASE/NORVIR (ritonavir)?

There are some drugs that should not be taken with INVIRASE/NORVIR. Before starting therapy with INVIRASE/NORVIR, be sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines—prescription medications, as well as over-the-counter drugs and nutritional supplements—that you are now taking or plan to take.

Medicines you should not take with INVIRASE/NORVIR

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class Not to Be Taken with INVIRASE/NORVIR (ritonavir)
Antiarrhythmics	PACERONE (amiodarone), TAMBOCOR (flecainide), RHYTHMOL (propafenone), bepridil, quinidine
Antimigraines	Ergot medications (e.g. WIGRAINE and CAFERGOT)
GI motility agents	PROPULSID (cisapride)*
Sedatives, hypnotics	VERSED (orally administered midazolam), Halcion (triazolam)
Antimycobacterial agents	Rifampin
Neuroleptics	ORAP [®] (Pimozide)
HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors	MEVACOR [®] , ALTOPREV [®] , ADVICOR [®] (lovastatin), ZOCOR [®] , VYTORIN [®] , SIMCOR [®] (simvastatin)

* No longer sold in the US.

INVIRASE causes increased blood levels of some of these compounds. This can lead to serious or life-threatening reactions such as irregular heartbeat or prolonged sedation.

The following medicines may increase blood levels and side effects of INVIRASE when taken with INVIRASE/NORVIR:

- REYATAZ[®] (atazanavir, used for HIV infection)
- PRILOSEC[®] (omeprazole, for treatment of gastrointestinal conditions such as ulcers or GERD)
- BIAXIN[®] (clarithromycin, for treatment of infections)
- CRIXIVAN[®] (indinavir, used for HIV infection)

INVIRASE/NORVIR may not work as well when taken together with the following medicines, herbal products, or dietary supplements:

- SUSTIVA[®] (efavirenz, used for HIV infection)

- VIRAMUNE[®] (nevirapine, used for HIV infection)
- APTIVUS[®] ([tipranavir]/NORVIR [ritonavir] used for HIV infection)
- Anticonvulsants such as CARBATROL[®] (carbamazepine), phenobarbital, and DILANTIN[®] (phenytoin)
- MYCOBUTIN[®] (rifabutin, an antimycobacterial agent)
- Corticosteroids such as dexamethasone
- Garlic capsules, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) or products containing St. John's wort, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement

Your healthcare provider may need to monitor your therapy more closely if you take INVIRASE/NORVIR with the following medicines:

- CIALIS[®] (tadalafil), LEVITRA[®] (vardenafil), or VIAGRA[®] (sildenafil citrate) used for erectile dysfunction. INVIRASE may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA
- COUMADIN[®] (warfarin) (a blood thinner)
- Antidepressants such as DESYREL[®] (trazodone), ELAVIL[®] (amitriptyline), or TOFRANIL[®] (imipramine)
- Benzodiazepines used as sedatives or sleeping pills such as XANAX[®] (alprazolam), TRANXENE[®] (clorazepate), VALIUM[®] (diazepam), and DALMANE[®] (flurazepam)
- LIPITOR[®] (atorvastatin) and CRESTOR[®] (rosuvastatin) used for lowering cholesterol
- Calcium channel blockers used for treatment of high blood pressure or heart disease, such as diltiazem (also known as CARDIZEM[®], CARTIA XT[®], DILACOR XR[®], DILTZAC[®], TAZTIA XT[®], TIAZAC[®]), PLENDIL[®] (felodipine), PROCARDIA[®] (nifedipine), CARDENE[®] (nicardipine), NIMOTOP[®] (nimodipine), verapamil-containing medications (such as CALAN[®], VERELAN[®]), amlodipine-containing medications (such as CADUET[®], NORVASC[®]), SULAR[®] (nisoldipine), and DYNACIRC[®] (isradipine)
- NIZORAL[®] (ketoconazole) and SPORANOX[®] (itraconazole) used to treat fungal infections
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE[®] (cyclosporine), NEORAL[®] (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE[®] (sirolimus), or PROGRAF[®] (tacrolimus)
- FLONASE[®], FLOVENT[®], ADVAIR[®] (fluticasone propionate), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma
- LANOXIN[®] (digoxin) used to treat heart rhythm problems or other heart conditions

- Oral contraceptives containing ethinyl estradiol used for preventing pregnancy
- Methadone used for the treatment of opioid addiction

Does INVIRASE cure HIV/AIDS?

INVIRASE does not cure AIDS, and it does not prevent you from getting other illnesses that result from advanced HIV infection. In addition, INVIRASE has not been shown to reduce the risk that you may transmit HIV to others through sexual contact or infected blood. You must continue to follow all of your doctor's recommendations for managing your illness.

What else should I discuss with my doctor?

Inform your doctor:

- If you are pregnant or become pregnant while taking INVIRASE. The effects of INVIRASE on pregnant women or unborn babies are not yet fully known. In addition, experts advise against breast-feeding if you are HIV positive, to reduce the risk of passing the virus to your baby.
- If you are taking anti-HIV medications. Your doctor may want to change one or more of your anti-HIV drugs in order to achieve the best results when you start treatment with INVIRASE.
- If you have diabetes or a family history of diabetes, or if you have hemophilia, hepatitis or other liver disease, your doctor should decide if INVIRASE is right for you.
- If you have ever taken FORTOVASE, discuss with your doctor whether INVIRASE is right for you.

How is INVIRASE supplied?

INVIRASE is available as light brown and green capsules in a 200-mg strength. INVIRASE comes in bottles of 270 capsules.

INVIRASE is also available as light orange to greyish- or brownish-orange tablets in a 500-mg strength. INVIRASE comes in bottles of 120 tablets.

How should I store INVIRASE?

INVIRASE capsules and tablets should be stored at room temperature. The bottles should be kept tightly closed.

INVIRASE has been prescribed specifically for you, and only for a particular condition. Do not use it for anything else. Do not give it to anyone else. If you think you have taken more than your prescribed dose, seek medical attention.

Keep this medication and all other medications out of the reach of children. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

This provides only a brief summary of product information about INVIRASE. If you have any questions about INVIRASE or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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If you have any questions about INVIRASE, call toll free at 1-800-910-4687.

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