

DIDANOSINE (Videx®)

What is Didanosine used for?

Didanosine is an antiretroviral agent that blocks the construction of virus. It is used to decrease the amount of viruses (viral load) to as low as possible, for as long as possible.

When should I take the medication?

Didanosine is usually taken twice daily. It is usually given in combination with at least two other antiretroviral agents to achieve significant decrease in viral multiplication.

How should it be taken?

Didanosine should be taken on empty stomach (30 minutes before meals or 2 hours after meals). Tablets should not be swallowed whole.

- Chew: Tablets should be chewed completely before swallowing
- Dissolve: Tablets may be dissolved in water or diluted, clear apple juice, and should be taken immediately. Do not mix with other juices.

If your child is taking Didanosine together with other medicines, they should be taken at least 2 hours apart from Didanosine.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Missing doses makes Didanosine less effective and may also make the virus resistant to Didanosine and other possible antiretroviral agents.

If you forgot to give your child the medication within 4 hours, give it as soon as you remember and then continue as per normal. Otherwise, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the usual time. Do not double or increase the dose.

If your child vomits within 15 minutes of administration, give another dose if possible.

What side effects can this medicine cause? What can I do about them?

Nausea and vomiting are common, and may be prevented by eating small frequent meals or sucking on candy. Headaches and pain can be alleviated with mild painkillers.

Inform your doctor if the side effects become severe and bothersome. Report to doctor immediately when your child complains of numbness or tingling of fingers, toes or feet, or visual changes.

Special instructions:

Some medication may reduce its efficacy, or increase its toxicity. Do not give your child any other medications or herbal products without first consulting your doctor.

Storage:

Tablets should be refrigerated (15°C-30°C), stored in tightly closed bottles, and kept away from direct light.