

INDINAVIR (Crixivan®)

What is Indinavir used for?

Indinavir is an antiretroviral that makes viruses less infectious. 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?

Indinavir is usually taken 2 to 3 times 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?

Indinavir should be taken on empty stomach (half an hour before meals or 2 hours after meals), with a full glass of water.

If your child is taking Indinavir together with Didanosine, give them at least two hours apart from each other, on an empty stomach.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

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

If you forgot to give your child the medication within 2 hours, give the dose as soon as you remember and then continue to give it 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.

Other common side effects are diarrhoea, insomnia, weakness, and abdominal pain. Your child may also complain a metallic taste.

Inform your doctor if the side effects become severe and bothersome.

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. Avoid taking grapefruits.

Ensure that your child drinks at least 1.5L of non-caffeinated fluids daily to decrease risk of developing kidney stones.

Storage:

Capsules should be stored below 30°C. Indinavir capsules are sensitive to moisture and should be stored in original container with desiccant.