

# LAMIVUDINE (Epivir®)

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## What is Lamivudine used for?

Lamivudine is an antiretroviral agent that blocks 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?

Lamivudine 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?

Lamivudine can be administered with or without food.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

Missing doses makes Lamivudine less effective and may also make the virus resistant to Lamivudine 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 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 fatigue, diarrhoea and skin rash.

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:**

Oral solution and tablets should be refrigerated (2°C-25°C) and stored in tightly closed bottles.