

NEVIRAPINE (Viramune®)

What is Nevirapine used for?

Nevirapine 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?

Nevirapine 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.

It may be started at a low dose and increased after 14 days.

How should it be taken?

Nevirapine can be administered with or without food.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Missing doses makes Nevirapine less effective and may also make the virus resistant to Nevirapine 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?

The common side effects of Nevirapine are headache, fever, rash and diarrhea. Mild painkillers may help alleviate headache.

Inform your doctor if the side effects become severe and bothersome. Report to doctor immediately when your child complains of pain in right upper quadrant, or if you suspect that your child is experiencing jaundice or rash.

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 stored below 30°C, protected from moisture and kept away from direct light.