

STAVUDINE (Zerit®)

What is Stavudine used for?

Stavudine 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?

Stavudine is usually taken twice daily. It is usually given in combination with at least two other antiretroviral agents.

How should it be taken?

Stavudine can be administered with or without food.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

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

If you forgot to give your child the medication within 4 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 it 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 anorexia, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, chills, fever, insomnia, weakness, anxiety and depression.

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.

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:

Reconstituted oral solution should be refrigerated (<30°C) and stored in tightly closed containers. It is stable for 30 days.