

# dolutegravir

## (Tivicay®)



50 mg - round, yellow tablet

### What is dolutegravir?

Dolutegravir is a medicine used to lower the amount of HIV virus in your body and make your immune system stronger. Dolutegravir is always used with other HIV medicines.

### How do I take it?

- Take dolutegravir as directed on the prescription label:
- 
- Take at the same time every day, with or without food
  - Do NOT take antacids, calcium, iron, or magnesium supplements at the same time as dolutegravir (see section *Can I take dolutegravir with other medicines?*)

Store in a dry place at room temperature, and keep out of reach of children

### What if I forget to take it?

It is very important to take dolutegravir every day to make sure that it keeps working. If you miss a dose, there is a higher chance that the virus will change to a form that is harder to treat. This is called "resistance".

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you are not sure if you should take your dose, call the pharmacist.

If you stop taking HIV medicine, the amount of HIV virus in your blood will increase.

**Do not stop any of your HIV medicines without talking to your doctor.**

### What should I expect?

Dolutegravir is usually well tolerated. Side effects may include:

- trouble sleeping
- nausea
- abnormal dreams
- stomach pain
- tiredness
- muscle pain
- headache

Rare, serious side effects may include:

- Allergic reaction: Signs include rash, blisters on skin or mouth, swelling of the face or throat, difficulty breathing, fever, flu-like symptoms
- Liver problems: Signs include yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, pale stools, or pain on right side below ribs
- Mood changes, feeling sad or depressed

**Always tell your doctor or pharmacist if side effects are bothering you.**  
**IMMEDIATELY contact your doctor if you have any serious side effects**

It is important to have regular blood tests to watch for side effects and make sure your HIV medicine is working to control the virus.



Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or are thinking about becoming pregnant, or if you plan to breastfeed.

## Can I take dolutegravir with other medicines?

Some medicines may interact with dolutegravir. Drug interactions can stop your treatment from working or may cause unwanted side effects.

Always tell your pharmacist and doctor if you are using any prescription or non-prescription medicines, vitamins, supplements, natural medicines or recreational drugs.

Medicines that may interact with dolutegravir include:

- Antacids (Tums<sup>®</sup>, Maalox<sup>®</sup>, Diovol<sup>®</sup>) and medicines with calcium, iron, or magnesium may be used but must be taken at least 6 hours before or 2 hours after you take dolutegravir
- Products containing calcium or iron (Tums<sup>®</sup>, FeraMax<sup>®</sup>) can be taken together with dolutegravir if taken WITH FOOD
- Some antibiotics such as rifampin
- Some medicines to treat seizures such as phenytoin (Dilantin<sup>®</sup>)
- Metformin
- St. John's Wort

This is not a complete list of medicines that interact with dolutegravir.

Always check with your pharmacist before starting any new medicines to make sure they are safe for you.

## What if I have questions?

If you have questions or problems with your medicine, call the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy:

**1-888-511-6222**

(Monday to Friday daytime and urgent issues after hours)

To book an appointment to see a St. Paul's Hospital clinical pharmacist, call reception:

**604-806-8060**

(Monday to Friday daytime)

This pamphlet is for general information purposes only. It does not provide individual medical or treatment advice and is not a substitute for medical or professional care.