

emtricitabine-tenofovir AF (Descovy™)



200 – 25 mg – blue, rectangular tablet



200 – 10 mg – grey, rectangular tablet

What is Descovy™?

Each Descovy™ tablet contains 2 different medicines: emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide (tenofovir AF). Descovy™ is a medicine used to lower the amount of HIV virus in your body and make the immune system stronger. Descovy™ is always used with other HIV medicines for treatment.

How do I take it?

- There are 2 different strengths of Descovy™:
 - 200-10 mg tablet if you are taking ritonavir or cobicistat
 - 200-25 mg tablet for other regimens
- Take 1 tablet once daily at the same time every day, with or without food

Store Descovy™ in a dry place at room temperature and keep out of the reach of children.

What if I forget to take it?

It is important to take Descovy™ every day to make sure it keeps working. If you miss a dose, there is a chance 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. Call the pharmacist if you are not sure what to do.

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

If you have Hepatitis B, stopping Descovy™ can make Hepatitis B worsen

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

What should I expect?

Descovy™ is usually well tolerated. Side effects may include:

- nausea
- headache
- diarrhea
- fatigue
- stomach pain
- skin colour changes

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
- New or worse kidney problems: Signs include being unable to pass urine or change in amount of urine, blood in urine, weight gain
- Liver problems: Signs include yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, pale stools, or pain on right side below ribs
- Loss of bone strength
- A condition called lactic acidosis: Signs include unusual muscle pain, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, fast heartbeat or fast breathing

Always tell your doctor or pharmacist if side effects are bothering you.

IMMEDIATELY contact your doctor if you have any serious side effects



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How you want to be treated.



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 Descovy™ with other medicines?

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

Medicines that may interact with Descovy™:

- Some medicines to treat seizures such as phenytoin and carbamazepine
- Some antibiotics such as rifampin and rifabutin
- St. John's wort
- Some anti-inflammatory pain medicines ("NSAIDS") such as ibuprofen (Advil®) or naproxen (Aleve®) may increase the risk of kidney problems. Low dose, short-term use is usually possible.

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

Always check with your pharmacist before starting a new medicine to make sure it is safe.

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 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.