



WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking VIREAD. Also, read it each time you get your VIREAD prescription refilled, in case something has changed.

This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor or pharmacist when you start this medicine and at check-ups. You should stay under a doctor's care when taking VIREAD.

It is extremely important that you do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your doctor or pharmacist (see HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIREAD and WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIREAD).

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about VIREAD.

WHAT IS VIREAD AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

- VIREAD is a type of medicine called a nucleotide analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI).

Use in the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B:

- VIREAD is used to treat chronic hepatitis B (an infection with hepatitis B virus [HBV]) in adults aged 18 years and older.

VIREAD works by interfering with the normal working of enzymes (HBV DNA polymerase) that are essential for the HBV virus to reproduce itself. VIREAD may help lower the amount of hepatitis B virus in your body by lowering the ability of the virus to multiply and

infect new liver cells and can improve the inflammation and scar tissue caused by the hepatitis B virus in your liver. Lowering the amount of virus in your body may reduce the chance of developing cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer.

Use in the Treatment of HIV-Infection:

- VIREAD is also used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection in adults aged 18 years and older. VIREAD is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

VIREAD helps to block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. VIREAD lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (called viral load) and may help to increase the number of T cells (called CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

You do not have to have HIV-infection to be treated with VIREAD for HBV.

DOES VIREAD CURE HIV-1 or AIDS?

VIREAD does not cure HIV-1 infection, or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIREAD are not known at this time. People taking VIREAD may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection.

Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

We do not know how long VIREAD may help treat your hepatitis. Sometimes viruses change in your body and medicines no longer work. This is called drug resistance.

DOES VIREAD REDUCE THE RISK OF PASSING HIV-1 OR HBV TO OTHERS?

VIREAD does not reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 or HBV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE VIREAD?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIREAD is right for you. Do not take VIREAD if:

- you are allergic to VIREAD or any of its ingredients
- you are already taking TRUVADA (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine combination tablet) or ATRIPLA (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine/ efavirenz combination tablet) because VIREAD is one of the active ingredients in TRUVADA and ATRIPLA.
- you are already taking HEPSERA (adefovir dipivoxil)

What should I tell my doctor before taking VIREAD?

Tell your doctor:

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of VIREAD on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking VIREAD. Do not breast-feed if you have HIV or HBV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor or pharmacist about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV or HBV, there is a chance that the baby can get HIV or HBV through breast-feeding.
- If you have kidney or bone problems
- If you have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection
- If you have HIV infection
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist about all your medical conditions

Tell your doctor or pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines and dietary supplements. Especially tell your doctor or pharmacist if you take:

- VIDEX, VIDEX EC (didanosine). VIREAD may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking VIDEX and VIREAD together. If you are taking VIDEX and VIREAD together, your doctor may need to reduce your dose of VIDEX.
- REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of VIREAD in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking VIREAD and REYATAZ or KALETRA together. VIREAD may decrease the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. If you are taking VIREAD

and REYATAZ together you should also be taking NORVIR (ritonavir).

It is a good idea to keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to your doctor or pharmacist every time you visit your doctor or fill a prescription.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIREAD?

- Stay under a doctor's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- Take VIREAD exactly as your doctor prescribed it. Follow the directions from your doctor or pharmacist, exactly as written on the label. Set up a dosing schedule and follow it carefully.
- The usual dose of VIREAD is one tablet once a day. If you have kidney problems, your doctor may recommend that you take VIREAD less frequently.
- VIREAD is best taken with a meal or just afterwards, however taking it without food should not reduce the effectiveness of the medicine.
- If you are taking VIREAD to treat your HIV or if you have HIV and HBV coinfection and are taking VIREAD, always take VIREAD in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. VIREAD and other medicines like VIREAD, may be less likely to work in the future if you are not taking VIREAD with other anti-HIV medicines because you may develop resistance to those medicines. If you have any questions about what medicines you should or should not be taking, please see your doctor or pharmacist.
- You are advised to get a HIV test before you start taking VIREAD and at any time after that when there is a chance you were exposed to HIV.

- When your VIREAD supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacist. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to VIREAD, become harder to treat and may result in very severe hepatitis and serious liver problems (see **WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIREAD**).
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIREAD to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of VIREAD?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of VIREAD, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much VIREAD (overdose)?

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 131126), or in New Zealand the Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) or go to the accident and emergency department at your nearest hospital if you think you or anyone else may have taken too many VIREAD tablets. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. This may need urgent medical attention.

As with all medicines, VIREAD should be kept out of reach of children.

What should I avoid while taking VIREAD?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my doctor before taking VIREAD?"
- Some patients taking VIREAD have experienced dizziness. Make sure you know how you react to VIREAD before you drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIREAD?

- Clinical studies in patients with HIV: The most common side effects of VIREAD are: diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, and dizziness. Less common side effects include flatulence (intestinal gas).
- Clinical studies in patients with chronic hepatitis B: The only common side effect of VIREAD is nausea.
- Marketing experience: Other side effects reported since VIREAD has been marketed include: allergic reaction, low blood phosphate, shortness of breath, increased liver enzymes, increased amylase, inflammation of the liver, stomach pain, inflammation of the pancreas, rash and weakness.
- Some patients treated with VIREAD have had kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another drug that can cause kidney problems, your doctor may need to perform additional blood tests. Kidney problems may be associated with muscle problems and softening of the bones.
- Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with VIREAD. It is not known whether long-term use of VIREAD will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your doctor may need to perform additional tests or may suggest additional medication.
- Some patients taking antiviral drugs like VIREAD have developed a condition called lactic acidosis (a buildup in the blood of lactic acid, the same substance that causes your muscles to burn during heavy exercise). Symptoms of lactic acidosis include nausea, vomiting, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, and weakness. If you notice these symptoms or if your medical condition changes suddenly, call your doctor right away.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- It is extremely important that you do not stop taking VIREAD without your doctor's advice. If you have Hepatitis B infection or HIV and HBV infection together, you may have a "flare-up" of Hepatitis B if you stop taking VIREAD, where the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. This flare-up may lead to liver failure and possibly liver transplantation or death. After stopping VIREAD, tell your doctor immediately about any new, unusual, or worsening symptoms that you notice after stopping treatment. After you stop taking VIREAD, your doctor will still need to check your health and take blood tests to check your liver for several months.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking VIREAD. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.
- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing

symptoms to your doctor or pharmacist right away. Your doctor or pharmacist may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store VIREAD?

- Keep VIREAD and all other medications out of reach of children.
- Store VIREAD at room temperature (below 25°C). It should remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label.
- Do not keep your medicine in places that are too hot or cold.
- Do not leave VIREAD in the car or on a window sill - heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.
- Keep your VIREAD tablets in the bottle with the cap tightly closed until you take them. If you take VIREAD tablets out of their pack they may not keep well.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Consumer Medicine Information. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for doctors or pharmacists (Product Information/Data Sheet).

Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

Do not use if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

What VIREAD tablets look like

VIREAD 300 mg film-coated tablets are almond-shaped and light blue in colour. The tablets are debossed (indented) on one side with "GILEAD" and "4331" and on the other side with "300". VIREAD 300 mg tablets are supplied in bottles containing 30 tablets.

Ingredients of VIREAD?

Active ingredients:

- tenofovir
- disoproxil
- fumarate

Inactive Ingredients:

- croscarmellose sodium
- lactose
- magnesium stearate
- microcrystalline cellulose
- pregelatinised maize starch

The tablets are coated with indigo carmine aluminum lake (E132), hypromellose, lactose, titanium dioxide (E171) and triacetin.
AUST R 90370

SPONSOR

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