ENTECAVIR

en-te-kah-veer

What does it do?

Entecavir is used to treat Hepatitis B.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems or HIV.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. If you are planning to get pregnant or find that you are, discuss this with your doctor. Use reliable contraception while taking *entecavir*.

How should you take it?

Take *entecavir* as directed with a glass of water. It is very important to take *entecavir* regularly. If you often forget to take *entecavir*, it may not work as well.

Some people may need to take *entecavir* on an empty stomach (2 hours before or 2 hours after food). Check with your doctor.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Tiredness or weakness Dizziness, headache Nausea	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *entecavir* to check your viral load and liver.
- Very rarely, *entecavir* can cause a serious condition called lactic acidosis. Stop taking *entecavir* and tell your doctor immediately if you are feeling very unwell or unusually tired, or if your breathing becomes faster than normal.
- Do not stop taking *entecavir* without talking to your doctor first.