

didanosine

From the NAPWA website at <http://www.napwa.org.au/rx/nrti/didanosine>

HIV treatments information

didanosine



Didanosine (ddl) is one of the older NRTIs and, while not the preferred option, may be used in a first-line regimen in combination with lamivudine or emtricitabine and either a boosted [PIA](#) type of anti-HIV drug that works by preventing the production of an enzyme, protease, that HIV needs to replicate. or an NNRTI.

The original, large-dose, chalk tablet form that ddl used to take (which was difficult to take) has been replaced by capsules.

February 2010 Update

Labeling Revision - Risk of Non-Cirrhotic Portal [Hypertension](#) Persistently high blood pressure, an outwardly symptomless condition which carries an increased risk of serious illnesses such as stroke, heart disease and heart attack.

The [FDA](#) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of all drugs, biologics, vaccines, and medical devices, including those used in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV infection, AIDS, and AIDS-related opportunistic infections. The FDA also works with the blood banking industry to safeguard the nation's blood supply. The Australian equivalent is the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). has notified healthcare professionals and patients about a rare, but serious, complication in the [liver](#) A large organ, located in the upper right abdomen, which assists in digestion by metabolising carbohydrates, fats and proteins, stores vitamins and minerals, produces amino acids, bile and cholesterol, and removes toxins from the blood. known as non-cirrhotic portal hypertension in patients using didanosine.

Read the complete MedWatch 2010 Safety summary including a link to the Drug Safety Communication, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHuma...>

About this treatment

Generic name:	didanosine (ddl)
Pronunciation:	<i>dye-DAN-oh-seen</i>
Brand name:	Videx
Also known as:	Videx EC (enteric coated) 2',3'-dideoxyinosine Generic versions include Dinex EC, Viro-Z, Aviro-Z and Divir.
Drug class:	nucleoside analogue

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Availability in Australia:

- **Available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)** through [S100 prescribers](#).
- This drug may be available through clinical trials in Australia.
- You may be able to import this drug from overseas for your personal use.

Presentation:

125mg capsule;200mg capsule;250mg capsule;400mg capsule

What the [treatment guidelines](#) say:

Didanosine should not be used in combination with tenofovir or unboosted atazanavir. Didanosine use also is associated with an increased risk for pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, and possibly other mitochondria-associated toxicities.

Links:

- <http://www.pbs.gov.au/html/consumer/search/results?term=DIDANOSINE&publication=HS>
- <http://www.aidsmap.com/cms1315520.aspx>
- <http://www.thebody.com/content/treat/art6025.html>

Taking it

Like all anti-HIV drugs, didanosine must be taken in combination with other drugs to be completely effective. Commonly, didanosine is combined with one other nucleoside (NRTI) drug and either a protease inhibitor or non-nucleoside, although other combinations are sometimes used. Your doctor will advise you on the right combination of drugs to suit your circumstances.

Dosage

The dose for people over 60kg is one 400mg capsule once a day. For people under 60kg the dose is 250mg once a day. ddI is considered to be safe for use in children over two weeks of old and is available as a buffered powder, but can cause a rare [side effect](#) An unwanted effect caused by the administration of drugs. Onset may be sudden or develop over time. in children that damages the eyes.

ddI should be used with caution during pregnancy.

In the two hours before and after taking ddI, do not eat and drink nothing but water.

Regardless of what you read on this website or elsewhere, you should always take your medications according to your doctor's instructions. If you're unsure, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

With or without food?

Didanosine must be taken on an empty stomach.

Side effects

All drugs can produce side effects in some people. These may be mild, moderate or severe, so you should be aware of potential side effects before starting any drug, and speak to your doctor if you experience side effects that concern you.

- **Common side effects** may include diarrhoea, peripheral neuropathy, insomnia.
- **Less common side effects** may include nausea (upset stomach, feeling sick to the stomach), vomiting, headache, rash, fever, chills, pain, dry mouth.
- **Rare side effects** may include lipodystrophy, pancreatitis, lactic acidosis, liver damage.

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It's unlikely you will experience all of these side effects, and you may not experience any side effects at all. Before starting any new drug, ask your doctor about side effects you might experience and discuss strategies for dealing with side effects if they do occur. If you experience any significant side effect you should continue taking your medicine and see your doctor as soon as possible.

Interactions with other drugs

Many other medications can reduce the amount of ddl that the body absorbs. Indinavir and ritonavir should not be taken within two hours of ddl. Tenofovir (viread) can increase levels of ddl by up to 64%, which puts patients at high risk of side effects such as pancreatitis and neuropathy. This combination can also cause a drop in CD4 cells and has also been linked to resistance. A number of drugs can increase the risk of ddl-related pancreatitis and should be avoided. These include d4T, demeclocycline, doxycycline, hydroxycarbamine, lymecycline, minocycline, oxytetracycline, pentamidine isetionate and tetracycline. Alcohol can also increase the risk of pancreatitis.

Methadone may reduce the absorption of ddl. Attachment

Size

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