

ZIAGEN[®] (abacavir sulfate) Tablets

ZIAGEN[®] (abacavir sulfate) Oral Solution

transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). Ziagen is only proven to work when taken in combination with other anti-HIV medications. When used in combination with these other medications, Ziagen helps lower the amount of HIV found in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection.

Ziagen does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. Ziagen has not been studied long enough to know if it will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Therefore, you must see your health care provider regularly.

Who should not take Ziagen?

Do not take Ziagen if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to abacavir (as Ziagen or Trizivir[®] [abacavir, lamivudine, and zidovudine] Tablets). If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Ziagen to your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I take Ziagen?

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, take your Ziagen exactly as your doctor prescribes it. Do not skip any doses.

The usual dosage for adults (at least 16 years of age) is one 300-mg tablet twice a day. You can take Ziagen with food or on an empty stomach.

Adolescents and children 3 months and older can also take Ziagen. Your doctor will tell you if the oral solution or tablet is best for your child. Also, your child's doctor will decide the right dose based on your child's weight and age. Ziagen has not been studied in children under 3 months of age.

If you miss a dose of Ziagen, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual scheduled time. Do not let your Ziagen run out. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if your anti-HIV drugs are stopped, even for a short time. Also, the virus in your body may become harder to treat.

What should I avoid while taking Ziagen?

Practice safe sex while using Ziagen. Do not use or share dirty needles. Ziagen does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking Ziagen. Ziagen has not been studied in pregnant women. It is not known whether Ziagen will harm the unborn child.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their babies because HIV is passed to the baby in breast milk. Also Ziagen can be passed to babies in breast milk and could cause the child to have side effects.

What are the possible side effects of Ziagen?