

WHO-PQ recommended clinical and preclinical information for the patient

*This information focuses on uses of the medicine covered by WHO's Prequalification Team - Medicines. The recommendations for use are based on WHO guidelines and on information from stringent regulatory authorities.**

The medicine may be authorised for additional or different uses by national medicines regulatory authorities.

* https://extranet.who.int/prequal/sites/default/files/document_files/75%20SRA%20clarification_Feb2017_newtempl.pdf

Information for the patient
[DTG 50 mg film-coated tablets][†]
Dolutegravir (sodium)

If you are a carer or parent looking after the person who takes this medicine, use this leaflet to give the medicine correctly and take note of the warnings and side effects.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have questions about the medicine, ask your health care provider.
- This medicine is for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their illness seems to be the same as yours.
- If you are concerned about any side effects, talk to your health care provider. This includes unwanted effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]
3. How to take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]
4. Possible side effects
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1. What [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] is and what it is used for

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] contains the active ingredient dolutegravir. Dolutegravir belongs to a group of HIV medicines called integrase inhibitors.

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] is used to treat HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infection in adults and children who weigh at least 20 kg. It is always used in combination with other anti-retroviral medicines (combination therapy).

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] may also be used with other HIV medicines to reduce the risk of getting HIV infection in patients who have been exposed to HIV. This is called post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] does not cure HIV infection; it reduces the amount of virus in your body and keeps it at a low level so it cannot be passed on. Reducing the amount of virus helps to increase the number of white blood cells, called CD4 cells, that are important for fighting infection.

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] does not work equally well in everybody. Your health care provider will check how well your treatment is working.

To control your HIV infection, and to stop your illness from getting worse, you must take all your HIV medicines regularly, unless your health care provider tells you to stop taking any.

2. What you need to know before you take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]

Don't take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] if you are:

- allergic to dolutegravir or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)

[†] Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's responsibility.

- taking another medicine called dofetilide (to treat heart conditions) or fampridine (also known as dalfampridine, used in multiple sclerosis).

If you think any of these apply to you, tell your health care provider.

Warnings and precautions

Look out for important symptoms

Some people taking medicines for HIV infection develop other conditions, which can be serious. These include:

- infections and inflammation
- joint pain, stiffness and bone problems

You need to know about important signs and symptoms to look out for while you're taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet].

Read the information, 'Other possible side effects' in Section 4 of this leaflet.

Children

There is not yet enough information to recommend the use of dolutegravir in children weighing less than 3 kg.

Other medicines and [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]

Tell your health care provider if you are taking, have recently taken or are planning to take any other medicines. This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription and herbal medicines.

Some medicines can affect how [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] works or increase side effects. [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] can also affect how some other medicines work.

You **must not** take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] with *dofetilide*, which is used to treat heart conditions or *fampridine* (also known as dalfampridine), used in multiple sclerosis.

Tell your health care provider if you are taking any of the following:

- *metformin*, to treat diabetes
- *antacids*, to treat indigestion and heartburn (see section 3)
- *calcium supplements*, *iron supplements* and *multivitamins* (see section 3)
- *rifampicin*, to treat tuberculosis and other bacterial infections
- *phenytoin* and *phenobarbital*, to treat epilepsy
- *oxcarbazepine* and *carbamazepine*, to treat epilepsy or bipolar disorder
- *St John's wort* (*Hypericum perforatum*), a herbal remedy used for treating depression

If you are taking any of these, your health care provider may adjust your dose or arrange extra check-ups.

Your health care provider will work out what other HIV medicines you should take with [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] and explain to you how to take them. Some HIV medicines (such as *etravirine*, *efavirenz*, *fosamprenavir/ritonavir*, *nevirapine* or *tipranavir/ritonavir*) may need adjustments of the dose of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] if used together. Always take your HIV medicines as your health care provider advises, and talk to him or her if you are unsure or if you get any side effects.

Pregnancy

Treatment guidelines recommend that this medicine can be used for HIV treatment in pregnancy. Effective treatment of HIV during pregnancy is important to protect you and your baby.

If you are pregnant, if you become pregnant, or if you are planning to have a baby talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet].

Do not stop taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] without checking with your health care provider, as this may harm you and your unborn baby.

Breast-feeding

If you wish to breast-feed your baby, you should discuss the risks and benefits with your health care provider.

Driving and using machines

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] can make you dizzy and have other side effects that make you less alert. Do not drive or operate machinery until you are sure that you do not have side effects that affect driving or using machines.

3. How to take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] should be taken with other HIV medicines. Your health care provider will work out the right combination for you.

Always take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] exactly as your health care provider has told you. Do not stop taking it without checking with your health care provider. Check with the health care provider if you are not sure.

Adults

The usual dose for adults is one tablet (50 mg) once a day. You can take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] with food or between meals.

Your health care provider may tell you to take a higher dose of one tablet **twice** a day

- if you are taking certain other medicines at the same time, that reduce the effect of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet], or
- if your HIV infection is resistant to medicines similar to [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet].

Children and adolescents

The dose of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] in children and adolescents weighing at least 20 kg is one tablet (50 mg), once a day.

If certain other medicines are taken at the same time, your health care provider will decide on a higher dose of one tablet **twice** a day.

Children and adolescents whose HIV infection is resistant to medicines similar to [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] should **not** take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet].

[DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] is not suitable for children weighing less than 20 kg. Other medicines containing smaller amounts of dolutegravir may be more suitable.

The active ingredient in this medicine is also available as dispersible tablets to make up a mixture with water. Film-coated tablets like [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] and dispersible tablets are **not** the same, therefore do not switch between film-coated tablets and dispersible tablets without first talking to your health care provider.

The dose of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] in children needs to be adjusted as they get older or gain weight. It is important therefore that children keep planned health care provider's appointments.

Length of treatment

If you are **being treated for HIV**, you will need to keep on taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] unless your health care provider changes your HIV treatment.

If you are taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] **to reduce the risk of getting infected** after being exposed to HIV (known as post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP), then you will only take the medicine for 28 days.

Check with your health care provider if you are unsure about your treatment.

Antacids, calcium supplements, iron supplements, multivitamins

Ask your health care provider for advice if you are taking:

- an antacid (a medicine used for treating indigestion and heartburn)
- calcium supplements

- iron supplements
- multivitamins.

Take these medicines at least 6 hours before you take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] or take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] at least 2 hours after taking an antacid, calcium or iron supplement, or multivitamins.

You can take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] **with food or between meals** but if you need to take the medicine twice a day, your health care provider may advise you take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] with food.

If you take more [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] than you should

If you take too many tablets of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet], contact your health care provider for advice. If possible, show them the [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] pack.

If you forget to take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]

If you miss a dose of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet], take it as soon as you remember. But if your next dose is due within 4 hours, skip the dose you missed and take the next one at the usual time. Then continue your treatment as before. You must not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

Don't stop taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] without advice from your health care provider

Take [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] for as long as your health care provider recommends it. Don't stop unless your health care provider advises you to.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your health care provider.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects but not everybody gets them.

Talk to your health care provider if there is any worsening of your health. The changes could be caused by the medicine or the condition getting worse.

Allergic reactions

See a health care provider straightaway if you get an allergic reaction because the health care provider may decide that you should stop taking [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]. The signs of allergic reactions are:

- skin rash
- fever
- tiredness
- swelling under the skin which can involve the face or mouth and cause breathing difficulty
- muscle and joint ache

Very common side effects (which affect more than 1 in 10 people)

headache
diarrhoea
feeling sick (nausea)

Common side effects (which may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

weight gain
rash, itching (pruritus)
being sick (vomiting), abdominal (belly) pain and discomfort, wind (flatulence)
insomnia, abnormal dreams
depression
dizziness, tiredness
blood tests showing changes in liver function
blood tests with increased muscle enzymes (creatine kinase) indicating muscle damage

Uncommon side effects (which may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)
suicidal thoughts and behaviours (particularly in patients who have had depression or mental health problems before); some deaths from suicide have occurred in people taking the medicine
panic attack
joint and muscle pain

Rare side effect (which may affect up to 1 in 1000 people)

liver failure (signs may include yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes or unusually dark urine)
increase in bilirubin (a test of liver function) in your blood

Other possible side effects

People taking medicines for HIV may get other side effects described below.

Infection and inflammation

People with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) have weak immune systems and they are more likely to develop serious infections (opportunistic infections). Such infections may have been 'silent' before starting HIV treatment. After starting treatment, the immune system becomes stronger, and may attack the infections, which can cause symptoms of infection or inflammation. Symptoms usually include fever, headache, stomach ache, and breathing difficulty.

In rare cases, as the immune system becomes stronger, it can also attack healthy body tissue (autoimmune disorders). The symptoms of autoimmune disorders may develop many months after taking medicine to treat your HIV infection. Symptoms may include palpitations (rapid or irregular heartbeat), tremor, excessive restlessness and movement, weakness beginning in the hands and feet and moving up towards the trunk of the body.

Speak to your health care provider **immediately** if you get any symptoms of infection and inflammation. Do not take other medicines for the infection without checking with your health care provider.

Joint pain, stiffness and bone problems

Some people taking combination therapy for HIV develop a condition called osteonecrosis. It is caused by damage to the bone tissue because of reduced blood supply to the bone. People taking combination therapy for a long time may be more likely to get this condition if they are also taking medicines called corticosteroids or bisphosphonates, drink alcohol, have a very weak immune system, or are overweight.

Signs of osteonecrosis include joint stiffness, aches and pains in the joints (especially in the hip, knee or shoulder), difficulty moving.

Speak to your health care provider if you notice any of these effects.

Weight, blood lipid and blood glucose effects

During HIV therapy there may be an increase in weight and in levels of blood lipids and glucose. This is partly linked to restored health and lifestyle, and in the case of blood lipids sometimes to the HIV medicines themselves. Your health care provider will test for these changes.

Reporting of side effects

If you get a side effect, talk to your health care provider. This includes side effects not listed in this leaflet. You may also be able to report such effects directly to your national reporting system if one is available. By reporting side effects, you can help to improve the available information on this medicine.

5. How to store [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet]

6. Contents of the pack and other information**What [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] contains**

- The active ingredient is dolutegravir. Each film-coated tablet contains 50 mg dolutegravir.
- The other ingredients of [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] are:

What [DTV 50 mg film-coated tablet] looks like and contents of the pack**Supplier and Manufacturer***Supplier**Manufacturer***This document was last revised in November 2024**

Detailed information on WHO-prequalified medicines is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website: <https://extranet.who.int/prequal/medicines/prequalified/finished-pharmaceutical-products>