

Who is the leaflet for?

This leaflet is for patients starting on treatment with entecavir for hepatitis B infection to provide an overview of treatment and important information.

What is entecavir for and how do I take it?

Entecavir is commonly used for patients with hepatitis B. It is a tablet which should be taken by mouth. Your doctor or nurse will advise you of your specific dose based on your individual treatment history, liver disease stage and kidney function but it is commonly taken once a day.

It is usually continued long-term and should not be stopped without discussion with your doctor or nurse specialist.

Are there any problems with taking entecavir?

Broadly, entecavir is safe and well tolerated. You will probably not run into problems when taking it, but you should be aware of the following issues.

Side effects

The common side effects from entecavir include headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea and difficulties sleeping.

Blood tests will need to be taken regularly whilst taking entecavir to monitor your liver and kidney function; your nurse specialist will discuss this with you. Should you become very unwell soon after starting the medication, please contact your Doctor or liver nurse.

Missed doses

To prevent viral mutation and liver damage, it is very important that you do not miss doses of entecavir. If you do miss a dose, but remember within twelve hours then take your usual dose. If it is more than twelve hours then skip the missed dose, but take your next dose when it is due.

Pregnancy

Should you wish to plan a pregnancy on entecavir this should be discussed carefully with your Doctor first. Otherwise, you should use contraception before you take the treatment and for at least six weeks afterwards.

Can I spread hepatitis B whilst I am on treatment?

Treatment with entecavir for hepatitis B does not stop you from passing the infection on, so make sure that you continue to take appropriate preventative measures. These can be discussed in more detail with your Doctor or liver nurse.

Further information

Further information about your tablet can be found in the patient information leaflet found in the tablet/capsule box or on the container.

If you have any other questions about your medication, please contact the medicines helpline on 01223 217502.

Further information on hepatitis B can be found on the following websites:

- The British Liver Trust (www.britishlivertrust.org.uk)

- www.patient.co.uk
- www.easternliver.net