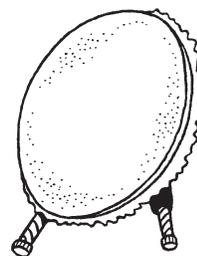


Information for Inuit Community Members

Fact Sheet 3 HIV/AIDS -Treatment



NEVIRAPINE

What is Nevirapine?

Nevirapine is one medicine that is part of a large family of drugs usually called Non-nucleosides or non-nukes. It is a medicine that fights the disease called HIV. It is usually taken with other medications that make up the AIDS cocktail.

What does Nevirapine do?

It helps keep the amount of HIV in your blood as low as possible. By keeping the amount of HIV in your blood low you have a stronger immune system and you are better able to fight common infections.

Does Nevirapine have side effects?

Most medicines have side effects. HIV is a strong virus that requires powerful medicine to fight it. The side effects to medicines like Nevirapine can be hard to get used to.

Not everyone who takes Nevirapine gets side effects.

The most common side effect of nevirapine is a rash. The rash can show up anywhere on your body. Usually, the rash shows up within the first six weeks of the time you start taking this medicine. Your body will usually adjust or adapt to the rash. If at anytime you get blisters, high fever or mouth sores together with a rash it is important for you to:

- ◆ See your doctor or nurse right away
- ◆ Stop taking the medicine until you have spoken to your doctor and the rash goes away.

The following are other common side effects of Nevirapine:

- ◆ Feeling sleepy all the time
- ◆ Finding it harder to think clearly
- ◆ Having strange dreams

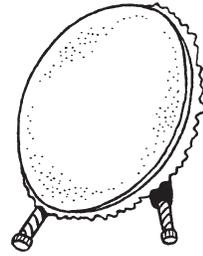
Helpful Hint:

One of the things you may find helpful is to keep a written record of your side effects from the day you start taking Nevirapine. Give this list to your doctor so you do not forget to mention anything.



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Common Questions people ask about Nevirapine:

Q: Can I take Nevirapine if I am pregnant?

A: It may be all right to take nevirapine if you are pregnant. Anytime you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, it is important to discuss all of your medications with your doctor.

Q: Do I have to take Nevirapine every day?

A: Yes. It is important to take any medicine exactly the way the doctor tells you to. Nevirapine will only work if it is taken regularly along with other medicines that are part of the AIDS Cocktail.

Q: Is Nevirapine dangerous to my children?

A: Yes. All medicine should be stored away from a place that a child can get it. Nevirapine like all other medicines could cause serious health problems to anyone who was not told to take it by a doctor. All medicines you take to treat your HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis C infection should be kept in a safe place.

