

Understanding HIV Medications

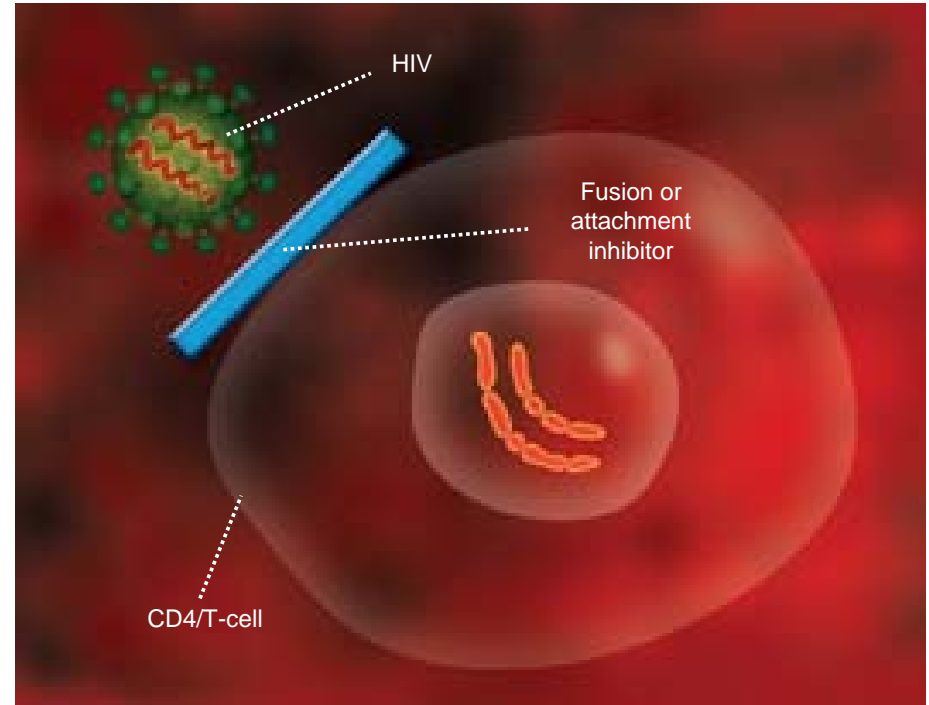
what kinds of medications are available for people living with HIV?

- Many drug options are available for people living with HIV.
- Each type of drug fights HIV in its own way to stop the virus from making more of itself (reproducing).
- Usually, a combination of 3 or more drugs taken together (a drug regimen) is needed to fight HIV.

HIV=human immunodeficiency virus

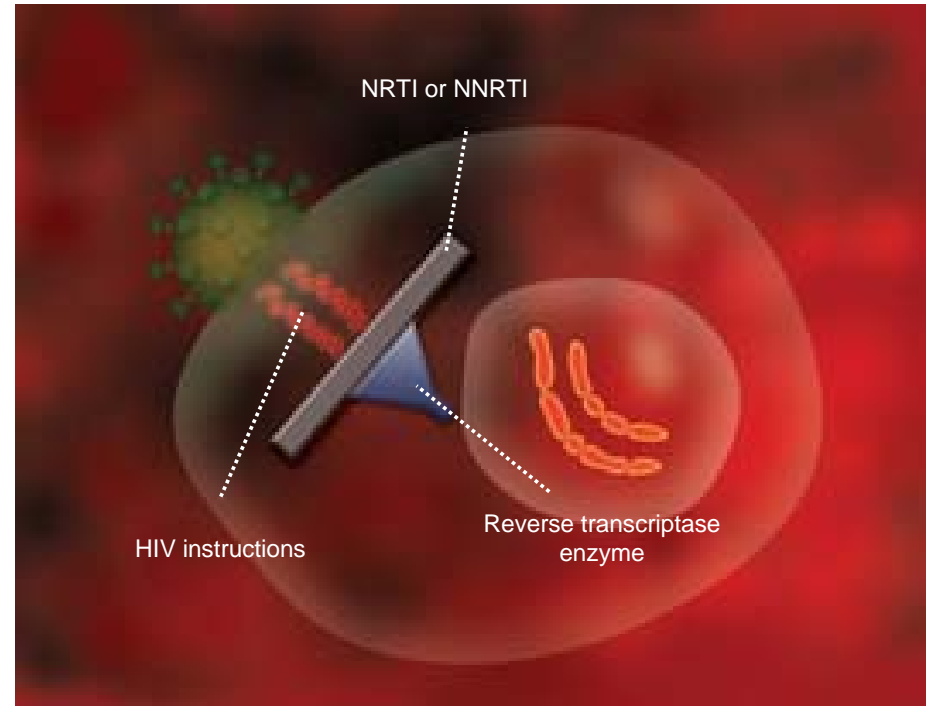
fusion/attachment inhibitors

- Fusion inhibitors and attachment inhibitors are drugs that stop HIV from getting into CD4/T-cells.
- If HIV cannot fuse or attach to the healthy CD4/T-cell, it cannot begin making more of itself.



NRTIs & NNRTIs

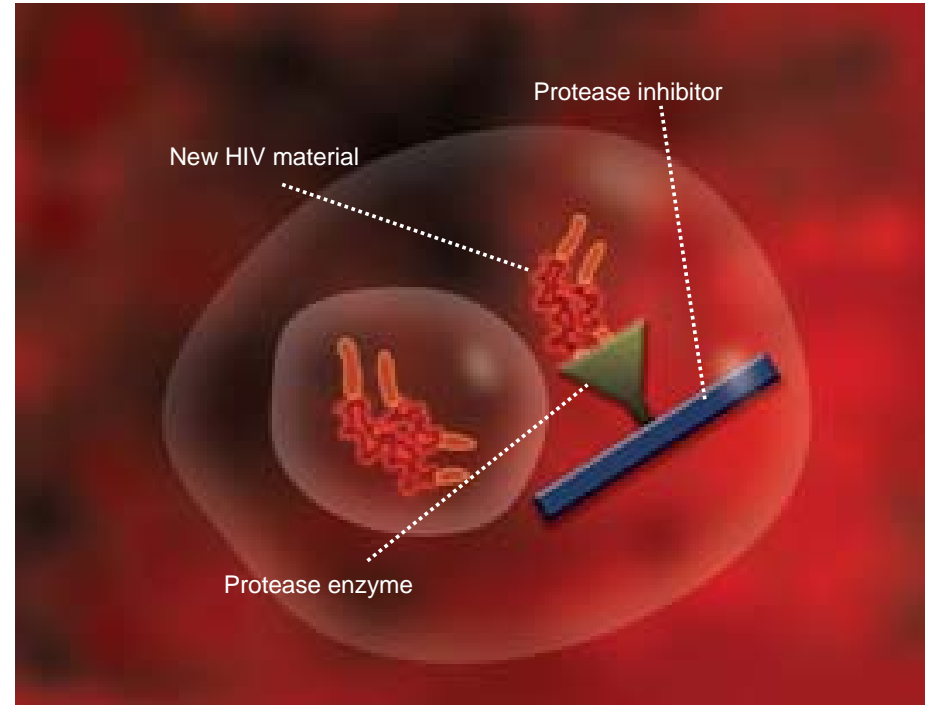
- NRTIs (nukes) and NNRTIs (non-nukes) are drugs that stop reverse transcriptase from working.
- Reverse transcriptase is the enzyme (helper) that helps HIV give CD4/T-cells the instructions needed to make more HIV.
- If the CD4/T-cell does not get the instructions, it cannot make more HIV.



NRTI=nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors; NNRTI=nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

protease inhibitors

- Protease inhibitors are drugs that block the protease enzyme (helper) so that the CD4/T-cell cannot finish making new HIV.

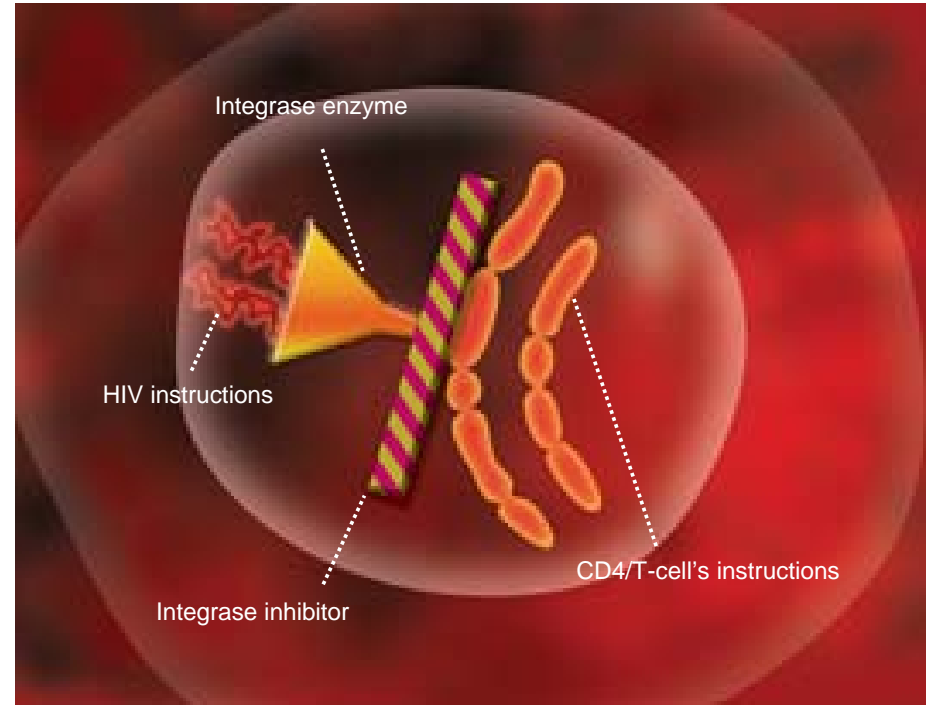


are there other ways to treat HIV?

- Yes. Integrase inhibitors fight HIV in a different way.

integrase inhibitors

- Integrase inhibitors are drugs that prevent HIV from using the integrase enzyme to integrate (combine) its instructions into the CD4/T-cell's instructions.
- By stopping the use of the integrase enzyme, integrase inhibitors prevent HIV from making more of itself.





what is **ISENTRESS**[®] (raltegravir) tablets and how does it work?

what is **ISENTRESS**?

- **ISENTRESS** is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine that helps control HIV infection. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- **ISENTRESS** is used along with other anti-HIV medicines in patients who are already taking or have taken anti-HIV medicines and the medicines are not controlling their HIV infection, such as patients with HIV resistant to more than one type of anti-HIV medication. **ISENTRESS** will NOT cure HIV infection.
- The safety and efficacy of **ISENTRESS** have not been established for the treatment of HIV infection in adult patients who have never taken HIV medications before or in patients under 16 years of age.
- The use of other medications active against HIV in combination with **ISENTRESS** may increase the likelihood of your overall response to treatment.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with **ISENTRESS**.

ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

what is **ISENTRESS**[®] (raltegravir) tablets and how does it work?

how does **ISENTRESS** work?

- **ISENTRESS** blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that **ISENTRESS** blocks is called HIV integrase.

Based upon studies of up to 48 weeks, **ISENTRESS**, when taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines:

1. May reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
 2. May also increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells that help fight off other infections.
- **ISENTRESS** may not have these effects in all patients.
 - People taking **ISENTRESS** may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.
 - **ISENTRESS** does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

what are the possible side effects of **ISENTRESS**[®] (raltegravir) tablets?

- A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to control the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting **ISENTRESS** with other anti-HIV medicines.
- When **ISENTRESS** has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, the most common side effects included:
 - nausea
 - headache
 - tiredness
 - weakness
- Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking **ISENTRESS**.
- Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.
- These are not all the side effects of **ISENTRESS**. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

important selected safety information

- **ISENTRESS**[®] (raltegravir) tablets has not been studied in pregnant women. **ISENTRESS** is not recommended for use during pregnancy.
- It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk. Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.
- Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions.
- Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:
 - prescription medicines such as rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections, such as tuberculosis)
 - non-prescription medicines
 - vitamins
 - herbal supplements
- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

please read the accompanying Patient Information about **ISENTRESS®**
(raltegravir) tablets and discuss it with your doctor.
(also accompanying is the Prescribing Information.)

if you have questions:

talk to your **health care provider**

or

call 1-800-NSC-MERCK

or

go to **isentress.com** for more information about **ISENTRESS.**



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