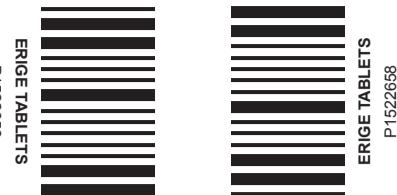




NOVAGEN[®]



PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SCHEDULING STATUS:

SOUTH AFRICA: [S4]

PROPRIETARY NAME AND DOSAGE FORM:
ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS (Tablet)

COMPOSITION:

ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS

Each film-coated tablet contains 600 mg efavirenz.

Excipients: Microcrystalline cellulose, sodium lauryl sulphate, croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, Opadry Yellow (Hydroxytitanium dioxide, titanium dioxide, iron oxide yellow and PEG 400), ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS contains no preservatives.

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

A20.2 Antiviral agents

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:

Mechanism of action: Efavirenz is a selective non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1). Efavirenz diffuses into the cell where it binds adjacent to the active site of reverse transcriptase. This produces a conformational change in the enzyme and inhibits its function. Efavirenz is a non-competitive inhibitor of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (RT) with respect to template, primer or nucleoside triphosphates, with a small component of competitive inhibition. HIV-2 RT and human cellular DNA polymerases alpha, beta, gamma and delta are not inhibited by concentrations of efavirenz.

Pharmacodynamic properties:

In vitro HIV susceptibility: The clinical significance of in vitro susceptibility of HIV-1 to efavirenz has not been established. The in vitro antiviral activity of efavirenz was assessed in lymphoblastoid cell lines, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and macrophage/monocyte cultures enriched from PBMCs. The 90 to 95 % inhibitor concentration (IC_{90}) of efavirenz for wild type laboratory adapted strains and clinical isolates ranged from 1.7 to 25 μ M. Efavirenz demonstrated synergistic activity in cell culture in combination with the nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), zidovudine (ZDV) or didanosine (ddI), or the protease inhibitor, indinavir (IDV).

Resistance: HIV-1 isolates with reduced susceptibility to efavirenz (greater than 380-fold increase in IC_{50}) compared to baseline can emerge in vivo. Phenotypic changes in evaluable HIV-1 isolates and genotypic changes in plasma virus from selected patients treated with efavirenz in combination with IDV or with ZDV plus lamivudine were monitored. One or more mutations at amino acid positions 100, 101, 103, 108, 150 and 225 were observed in all 62 patients with a frequency of at least 10 % compared to baseline. The mutation at RT amino acid position 103 (lysine to asparagine) was the most frequently observed (greater or equal to 90 %). A mean loss in susceptibility (IC_{50}) to efavirenz of 47-fold was observed in 20 clinical isolates. Five clinical isolates were evaluated for both genotypic and phenotypic changes from baseline. Decreases in efavirenz susceptibility (range from 8 to greater than 312-fold increase in IC_{50}) were observed for these isolates in vitro compared to baseline. All 5 isolates possessed at least one of the efavirenz-associated RT mutations. The clinical relevance of phenotypic and genotypic changes associated with efavirenz therapy has not been established.

Cross-resistance: Rapid emergence of HIV-1 strains that are cross-resistant to non-nucleoside RT inhibitors has been observed in vivo. Clinical isolates previously characterized as efavirenz-resistant were also phenotypically resistant to nevirapine and delamanvir in vitro compared to baseline. Clinically derived ZDV-resistant HIV-1 isolated and tested in vitro retained susceptibility to efavirenz. Cross-resistance between efavirenz and HIV protease inhibitors is unlikely because of the different enzyme targets involved.

Pharmacokinetic properties:

Absorption: Peak efavirenz plasma concentrations of 1.6 - 9.1 μ M were attained by 5 hours following single oral doses of 100 mg to 1 600 mg administered to uninfected volunteers. Dose-related increases in C_{max} and AUC were seen for doses up to 1 600 mg; the increases were less than proportional suggesting diminished absorption at higher doses. Steady state plasma concentrations are reached in 6 - 7 days.

Distribution: Efavirenz is a very highly bound (approximately 99.5 - 99.75 %) to human plasma proteins, predominantly albumin. In HIV-1 infected patients receiving efavirenz 200 to 600 mg once daily for at least one month, cerebrospinal fluid concentrations ranged from 0.26 to 1.19 % (mean 0.69 %) of the corresponding plasma concentration. This proportion is approximately three-fold higher than the non-protein-bound (free) fraction of efavirenz in plasma.

Metabolism: Efavirenz is principally metabolised by the cytochrome P450 system to hydroxylated metabolites with subsequent glucuronidation of these hydroxylated metabolites. These metabolites are inactive against HIV-1. CYP3A4 and CYP2B6 are the major isozymes responsible for efavirenz metabolism. Efavirenz has been shown to induce P450 enzymes, resulting in the induction of its own metabolism.

Elimination: Efavirenz has a long terminal half-life of 52 to 76 hours after single doses, and 40 - 55 hours after multiple doses. Approximately 14 - 34 % of a radio-labelled dose of efavirenz was recovered in the urine and 16 - 61 % was recovered in faeces, mainly in the form of metabolites.

Special populations:

Hepatic impairment:

The pharmacokinetics of efavirenz have not been adequately studied in patients with hepatic impairment.

Renal impairment:

The pharmacokinetics of efavirenz have not been studied in patients with renal insufficiency. However, less than 1 % of efavirenz is excreted unchanged in the urine, so the impact of renal impairment on efavirenz elimination should be minimal.

Gender and Race:

Pharmacokinetics of efavirenz in patients appear to be similar between men and women and among the racial groups studied.

Geriatric use:

Pharmacokinetics of efavirenz have not been studied in subjects aged 65 and over to establish whether they respond differently.

Paediatric use:

In 48 paediatric patients receiving the equivalent of a 600 mg dose of efavirenz (dose adjusted from calculated body size based on weight), steady state C_{max} was 14.2 μ M, steady state C_{min} was 5.6 μ M, and AUC was 218 μ M. The pharmacokinetics of efavirenz in paediatric patients were similar to adults.

INDICATIONS:

ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS, in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infected adults, adolescents and children weighing 40 kg and above, and/or 3 years and above.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** or any of its components.

ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, dofetilide, triazolam or ergot derivatives for CYP3A4 by efavirenz could result in inhibition of metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening adverse events (e.g. cardiac arrhythmias, prolonged sedation or respiratory depression).

Pregnancy and lactation (see **PREGNANCY AND LACTATION**).

Children less than 3 years or weighing less than 40 kg:

WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS (see **"CONTRAINDICATIONS"**).

Resistant virus emerges rapidly when **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is administered as monotherapy. Therefore, **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** must not be used as a single agent to treat HIV or added on as a sole agent to a failing regimen. Serious nervous system and psychiatric symptoms have been reported.

When prescribing medicines concomitantly with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**, medical practitioners should refer to the corresponding manufacturer's product circular. If any antiretroviral medication in a combination regimen is interrupted because of suspected intolerance, serious discontinuation should be given to simultaneous discontinuation of all antiretroviral medications. The antiretroviral medications should be restarted at the same time upon resolution of the intolerance symptoms. Intermittent monotherapy and sequential reintroduction of antiretroviral agents is not advisable because of the increased potential for selection of drug-resistant mutant virus.

Skin Rash: Mild to moderate rash has been reported with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** use and usually resolves with continued therapy. Appropriate antihistamines and/or corticosteroids may improve the tolerability and hasten the resolution of rash. **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** should be discontinued in patients developing severe rash associated with blistering, desquamation or fever. If therapy with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is discontinued, consideration should also be given to interrupting therapy with other antiretroviral agents to avoid development of drug resistant virus (see **"SIDE EFFECTS"**).

Prophylaxis with appropriate antihistamines prior to initiating therapy with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** in children may be considered.

Nervous System Symptoms: Nervous system symptoms have been reported with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** use (see **"SIDE EFFECTS"**). In addition, there have been reports of psychosis-like reactions, such as delusions and inappropriate behaviour, including aggression in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Severe acute depression (including suicidal ideation/Attempts) has also been infrequently reported in both **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**-treated and control-treated patients, particularly in patients with a previous history of depression. Patients should be advised that if they experience these symptoms they should contact their doctor immediately because discontinuation of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may be required.

Special Populations: Because of the extensive cytochrome P450-mediated metabolism of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** limited clinical experience in patients with chronic liver disease, caution should be exercised in administering **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** to patients with liver disease.

Liver Enzymes: In patients with known or suspected history of Hepatitis B or C infection and in patients treated with other medications associated with liver enzyme elevations, monitoring of liver enzymes is recommended. In patients with persistent elevations of serum transaminases to greater than 5 times the upper limit of the normal range, the benefit of continued therapy with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** needs to be weighed against the unknown risks of significant liver toxicity (see **"SIDE EFFECTS"**).

Cholesterol: Monitoring of cholesterol and triglycerides should be considered in patients treated with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** (see **"SIDE EFFECTS"**).

Lipidostyrophy and metabolic abnormalities: Combination antiretroviral therapy has been associated with the redistribution/accumulation of body fat, including central obesity, dorso-cervical fat enlargement (buffalo hump), peripheral wasting, facial wasting, breast enlargement, and elevated serum lipid and glucose concentrations. These symptoms should include evaluation of physical signs of fat redistribution. Patients with evidence of lipidostyrophy should have a thorough cardiovascular risk assessment.

Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome

ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS must be used in combination with other antiretroviral medications (see **"Taking other concomitant with ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS"**).

Adolescents and children (17 years and under): **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may be taken with or without food, as desired. **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** can only be used in adults and children who weigh greater than or equal to 40 kg.

If you take more ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS than you should: Some patients accidentally taking 600 mg twice daily have reported increased nervous system symptoms. In the event of overdose, consult your doctor or pharmacist. If neither is available, contact the nearest hospital or poison control centre.

If you forget to take ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS: Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses.

5. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** can have side effects. Efavirenz was generally well tolerated in clinical trials. Efavirenz has been studied in over 9 000 patients. In a subset of 1 008 patients who received 600 mg efavirenz daily in combination with protease inhibitors and NRTIs in controlled clinical studies, the most frequently reported treatment-related undesirable effects of at least moderate severity reported in at least 5 % of patients were rash (11.6 %), dizziness (8.5 %), nausea (8.0%), headache (5.7 %), and fatigue (5.5 %). Nausea was reported with a higher frequency in the control groups. The most notable undesirable effects associated with efavirenz are rash and nervous system symptoms.

Other, less frequent, clinically significant treatment-related undesirable effects reported in all clinical trials include: allergic reaction, abnormal coordination, ataxia, confusion, stupor, vertigo, vomiting, diarrhoea, hepatitis, impaired concentration, insomnia, anxiety, abnormal dreams, somnolence, depression, abnormal thinking, agitation, amnesia, delirium, emotional lability, euphoria, hallucination and psychosis.

Additional undesirable effects reported in post-marketing surveillance include neurosis and paranoid reaction, convulsions and blurred vision.

The type and frequency of undesirable effects in children was generally similar to that of adult patients with the exception that rash was reported more frequently in children and was more often of higher grade than in adults.

Rash: In clinical trials, 26 % of patients treated with 600 mg of efavirenz experienced skin rash compared with 17 % of patients treated in control groups. Skin rash was considered treatment-related in 18 % of patients treated with efavirenz. Severe rash occurred in less than 1 % of patients treated with efavirenz and 1.7 % discontinued therapy because of rash. The incidence of erythema multiforme or Stevens-Johnson Syndrome was 0.14 %.

Rash was reported in 26 of 57 children (46 %) treated with efavirenz and was severe in 3 patients (5 %). Prophylaxis with appropriate antihistamines prior to initiating therapy with efavirenz in children may be considered. Rash was usually mild-to-moderate maculopapular skin eruptions that occur within the first two weeks of initiating therapy with efavirenz. In most patients rash resolves with continuing therapy with efavirenz within one month. Efavirenz can be reinitiated in patients interrupting therapy because of rash. Use of appropriate antihistamines and/or corticosteroids is recommended when efavirenz is restarted. Experience with efavirenz in patients who discontinued other antiretroviral agents of the NNRTI class is limited. Nineteen patients who discontinued nevirapine because of rash have been treated with efavirenz. Nine of these patients developed mild-to-moderate rash while receiving therapy with efavirenz, and two discontinued because of rash.

Nervous System Symptoms: There have been reports (approximately 1 to 2 per thousand Efavirenz treated patients) of delusions and inappropriate behavior, predominantly in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Severe acute depression (including suicidal ideation/Attempts) has also been infrequently reported in both efavirenz-treated and control-treated patients. Patients who experience these symptoms should contact their doctor immediately because discontinuation of efavirenz may be required.

Fifty two percent of patients receiving efavirenz reported central nervous system and psychiatric symptoms. These symptoms included, but were not limited to, dizziness, impaired concentration, somnolence, abnormal dreams and insomnia. In controlled trials, these symptoms were severe in 2.0 % of patients receiving efavirenz 600 mg QD and in 1.3 % of patients receiving control regimens. In clinical trials, 2.1 % of efavirenz-treated patients discontinued therapy because of nervous system symptoms. These symptoms usually began during the first or second day of therapy and generally resolve after the first 2 to 4 weeks. In one clinical study, the monthly prevalence of nervous system symptoms of at least moderate severity between weeks 4 and 48 ranged from 5 % to 8 % in patients treated with regimens containing efavirenz and 3 % to 5 % in patients treated with the control regimen. Patients should be informed that these symptoms are likely to improve with continued therapy. Dosing at bedtime improves the tolerability of these symptoms and is recommended during the first weeks of therapy and in patients who continue to experience these symptoms.

Patients receiving **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system effects when **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is used concomitantly with alcohol or psychoactive drugs.

Patients should be informed that **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may cause dizziness, impaired concentration, and/or drowsiness. Patients should be instructed that if they experience these symptoms they should avoid potentially hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery. Adverse clinical studies and moderate to severe intensity observed in less than 2 % of patients receiving efavirenz in all Phase III trials and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate severity are listed below by body system.

General disorders and administrative site conditions: Alcohol intolerance, allergic reaction, asthenia, hot flashes, influenza-like symptoms, malaise, pain and syncope.

Gastrointestinal disorders: Gastritis, gastroenteritis and gastroesophageal reflux, taste perversion.

Ear and labyrinth disorders: Tinnitus.

Cardiac disorders: Blushing, palpitations and tachycardia.

Hepato-biliary disorders: Hepatitis.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: Weight gain and weight loss.

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders: Arthralgia and myalgia.

Immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) is an immunopathological response resulting from the rapid restoration of pathogen-specific immune responses to pre-existing antigens combined with immune dysregulation, which occurs shortly after initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART). Typically such reaction presents as paradoxical deterioration of opportunistic infections being treated or with unmasking of an asymptomatic opportunistic disease, often with an atypical inflammatory presentation. IRIS usually develops within the first three months of initiation and occurs more commonly in patients with low CD4 counts. Common examples of IRIS reactions to opportunistic diseases are tuberculosis, cytomegalovirus retinitis, and cryptococcal meningitis. Appropriate treatment of the opportunistic disease should be instituted or continued and ART continued. Inflammatory manifestations generally subside after a few weeks. Severe cases may require hospitalization, but there is only limited evidence for this in patients with tuberculosis IRIS. Autoimmune disorders (such as Graves' disease) have also been reported as IRIS reactions, however, the reported time to onset is more variable and these events can occur many months after initiation of treatment.

Osteonecrosis: Although the aetiology is considered to be multifactorial (including corticosteroid use, alcohol consumption, severe immunosuppression, higher body mass index), cases of osteonecrosis have been reported, particularly in patients with advanced HIV disease and/or long-term exposure to combination antiretroviral therapy (cART). Patients should be advised to seek medical advice if they experience joint and/or bone pain, joint stiffness or difficulty in movement.

Opportunistic infections: Patients receiving **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** should be advised that they may continue to develop opportunistic infections and other complications of HIV infection, and therefore they should remain under close observation by healthcare professionals experienced in the treatment of patients with associated HIV disease. Regular monitoring of viral load and CD4 counts needs to be done.

The risk of HIV transmission to others: Patients should be advised that current antiretroviral therapy, including **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**, does not prevent the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Appropriate precautions should continue to be employed.

Paediatric use: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** has not been studied in paediatric patients below 3 years of age or who weigh less than 40 kg. Therefore, **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is not recommended in this group.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may cause dizziness, impaired-concentration, and/or drowsiness. Patients should be instructed that if they experience these symptoms they should avoid potentially hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery. Alternatives to clear vision may be considered.

INTERACTIONS: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is an inducer of CYP3A4. Other compounds that are substrates of CYP3A4 may have decreased plasma concentrations when co-administered with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**.

Indinavir: When indinavir (800 mg every 8 hours) was given with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** (200 mg every 24 hours), the indinavir AUC and C_{min} were decreased by approximately 51 % and 15 % respectively, as a result of enzyme induction. Therefore, the dose of indinavir should be increased from 800 mg to 1 000 mg every 8 hours when **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** and indinavir are co-administered. No adjustment of the dose of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is necessary when given with indinavir.

Ritonavir: When **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** (given once daily at bedtime) and ritonavir 500 mg (given every 12 hours) was studied in infected volunteers the combination was not well tolerated and was associated with a higher frequency of adverse clinical experiences (for example, dizziness, nausea, paraesthesia and elevated liver enzymes occurred). Monitoring of liver enzymes is recommended when **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is used in combination with ritonavir.

Saquinavir: When saquinavir (1200 mg given 3 times a day, soft capsule formulation) was given with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** (the saquinavir AUC and C_{min} were decreased by 62 % and 50 % respectively. Use of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** in combination with saquinavir as the sole PI is not recommended.

Rifamycins: Rifampicin reduced **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** AUC by 26 % and C_{min} by 20 % in 12 uninfected volunteers. The dose of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** must be increased to 600 mg/day when taken with rifampicin. No dose adjustment of rifampicin is recommended when given with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. Rifabutin has not been studied in combination with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. **Clarithromycin:** Co-administration of 400 mg of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** once daily with clarithromycin given as 500 mg every 12 hours for seven days resulted in a significant effect of efavirenz on the pharmacokinetics of clarithromycin. The AUC and C_{min} of clarithromycin decreased 38 % and 26 %, respectively, while the AUC and C_{min} of the active clarithromycin hydroxymetabolite were increased 34 % and 49 %, respectively when used in combination with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. The clinical significance of these doses in clarithromycin plasma levels is not known. In uninfected volunteers 46 % developed rash while receiving **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** and clarithromycin. No dose adjustment of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is recommended when given with clarithromycin.

Oral contraceptives: Only the ethinylestradiol component of oral contraceptives has been studied. The AUC following a single dose of ethinylestradiol was increased (37 %) after multiple dosing of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. No significant changes were observed in C_{min} of ethinylestradiol. The clinical significance of these effects is not known. No effect of a single dose of ethinylestradiol was observed with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. Because the potential interaction of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** with oral contraceptives has not been fully characterised, a reliable method of barrier contraception must be used in addition to oral contraceptives.

Methadone: Co-administration of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** with methadone, in HIV-infected IV drug users, resulted in decreased plasma levels of methadone and signs of opiate withdrawal. The methadone dose was increased by a mean of 22 % to alleviate withdrawal symptoms. Patients should be monitored for signs of withdrawal and their methadone dose increased as required to alleviate withdrawal symptoms.

St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*): Patients on **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** should not concomitantly use products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) since it may be expected to result in reduced plasma concentrations of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. This effect is due to an induction of CYP3A4 and may result in loss of therapeutic effect and development of resistance.

Cannabinoid Test Interaction: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** does not bind to cannabinoid receptors. False positive urine cannabinoid test results have been reported in uninfected volunteers who received **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. False positive test results have only been reported with the CEDIA DDU Multi-Level THC assay, which is used for screening, and have not been observed with other cannabinoid assays tested including tests used for confirmation of positive results.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION: The use of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** during pregnancy is not recommended, as teratogenicity has been noted. Malformations have been observed in foetuses from **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**-treated monkeys that received doses, which resulted in plasma drug concentrations similar to those in humans given 600 mg/day; therefore pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**.

Barrier contraception should always be used with other methods of contraception (e.g. oral or other hormonal contraceptives). Women of childbearing potential should undergo pregnancy testing prior to initiation of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** (see **"CONTRAINDICATIONS"**).

The safety in lactation has not been established. Since animal data suggest that the substance may be passed into breast milk, it is recommended that mothers taking **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** do not breastfeed their infants. It is recommended that HIV-infected women not breastfeed their infants under any circumstances in order to avoid transmission of HIV.

DOSEAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE: **Adults:** The recommended dosage of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** in combination with a protease inhibitor, and/or nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) is 600 mg orally, once daily. **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may be taken on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.

In order to improve the tolerability of nervous system side effects, bedtime dosing is recommended during the first two to four weeks of therapy and in patients who continue to experience these symptoms (see **"SIDE EFFECTS"**).

Concomitant Antiretroviral Therapy: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** must be given in combination with other antiretroviral medications (see **"INTERACTIONS"**).

Adolescents and children (17 years and under): **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may be taken on an empty stomach, at bedtime. **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** can only be used in adults and children who weigh greater than or equal to 40 kg.

SIDE EFFECTS: **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** can have side effects.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown: Weight gain and weight loss.

Nervous system disorders: **Frequent:** Dizziness, impaired concentration, somnolence, insomnia, aggravated depression. **Less frequent:** Abnormal dreams, headache, abnormal/impaired coordination, ataxia, convulsions, hypoesthesia, paraesthesia, neuropathy, peripheral neuropathy, tremors, agitation, amnesia, anxiety, apathy, confusion, emotional lability, euphoria, hallucination, neuralgia, speech disorder, tremor and vertigo.

Eye disorders: **Less frequent:** Abnormal vision.

Ear and labyrinth disorders: **Less frequent:** Tinnitus.

Cardiac disorders: **Less frequent:** Flushing, palpitations and tachycardia.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: **Less frequent:** Asthma, upper respiratory tract infections. **The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown:** Sinusitis, dyspnoea.

Gastrointestinal disorders: **Frequent:** Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea. **Less frequent:** Anorexia, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastro-oesophageal reflux, taste perversion. **The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown:** Appetite increased, constipation and mal-absorption.

Hepato-biliary disorders: **Less frequent:** Hepatitis. **The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown:** Hepatic enzyme increase and hepatic failure.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: **Frequent:** Rash, pruritus and increased sweating. **Less frequent:** Eczema, alopecia, folliculitis, skin exfoliation, urticaria, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. **The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown:** Acne, seborrhoea, nail disorders, skin discolouration.

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders:

Less frequent: Arthralgia, myalgia and myopathy.

Reproductive system and breast disorders: **The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown:** Impotence, libido decreased, libido increased.

General disorders and administrative site conditions: **Frequent:** Fatigue. **The following side effects have been reported and frequencies are unknown:** Alcohol intolerance, allergic reaction, asthenia, hot flushes, influenza-like symptoms, malaise, pain, syncope and redistribution/accumulation of body fat.

Investigations: **Less frequent:** Raised liver enzyme values have occurred, particularly in patients with viral hepatitis. Raised serum-cholesterol and triglyceride concentrations have been reported. Liver enzymes: Elevations of AST and ALT to greater than five times the upper limit of the normal range were seen in patients treated with 600 mg of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. Similar elevations were seen in patients treated with control regimens. In 156 patients treated with 600 mg of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** who were sero-positive for Hepatitis B and 7 % developed AST levels and 8 % developed ALT levels greater than five times the upper limit of the normal range. In 91 patients' sero-positive for Hepatitis B and/or C, treated with control regimens, 5 % developed AST elevations and 4 % developed ALT elevations to these levels. Elevations of GGT to greater than five times the upper limit of the normal range were observed in 4 % of all patients treated with 600 mg of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** and in 10 % of patients sero-positive for Hepatitis B or C. In patients treated with control regimens, the incidence of GGT elevations to this level was 1.5 to 2 % irrespective of Hepatitis B or C serology. Isolated elevations of GGT in patients receiving **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** may reflect enzyme induction not associated with liver toxicity (see **"WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS"**).

Lipids: Increases in total cholesterol of 10 to 20 % have been observed in some uninfected volunteers receiving efavirenz. Increases in non-fasting total cholesterol and HDL of approximately 20 % and 25 %, respectively were observed in patients treated with efavirenz+ZDV+3TC and of approximately 40 % and 35 %, in patients treated with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** +IDV. The effects of **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** on triglycerides and LDL were not well characterized. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown (see **"WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS"**).

KNOWN SYMPTOMS OF OVERDOSSAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT: Some patients accidentally taking 600 mg twice daily have reported increased nervous system symptoms and involuntary muscle contractions. Treatment of overdose with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** should consist of general supportive measures, including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the patient's clinical status. Administration of activated charcoal may be used to aid removal of unabsorbed drug. There is no specific antidote for overdose with **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS**. Since **ERIGERON 600 mg TABLETS** is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to significantly remove the drug from blood.

IDENTIFICATION: Yellow coloured oval biconvex film-coated tablets debossed with 'D' on one side and '37' on the other side.

PRESENTATION: Tablets are packed in milky white round 80 ml HDPE containers with screw type polypropylene closure with induction sealing wad. Pack size: 30 tablets per HDPE container.

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS: Store at or

