

**NOVAGEN**  
PHARMA

**PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULING STATUS**

**54**  
**PROPRIETARY NAME AND DOSAGE FORM**  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg (Tablet)**  
**INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION 20 mg/ml (Solution)**

**WARNING:**  
Hypersensitivity: In clinical studies, approximately 4 % of subjects receiving INVERTERON developed a hypersensitivity reaction which may be fatal.  
Description: This is characterised by the appearance of symptoms indicating multi-organ/body-system involvement. The majority of patients have fever and/or rash as part of the syndrome. The symptoms of this syndrome can occur at any time during treatment with INVERTERON, but usually appear within the first 6 weeks of initiation of treatment with INVERTERON (median time to onset 11 days), and most often include fever, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain), rash and fatigue or malaise. Other symptoms may include myalgia, arthralgia, oedema, paraesthesiae and respiratory symptoms such as dyspnoea, sore throat or cough. The symptoms worsen with continued therapy and can be life-threatening. These symptoms usually resolve upon discontinuation of INVERTERON.  
Management: To avoid a delay in diagnosis and minimise the risk of a life-threatening hypersensitivity reaction, INVERTERON should be permanently discontinued if hypersensitivity cannot be ruled out, even when other diagnoses (possible respiratory diseases, flu-like illness, gastroenteritis or reactions to other medications), INVERTERON should not be restarted even if a recurrence of symptoms occurs following re-challenge with alternative medication(s).

An Alert Card with information for the patient about the hypersensitivity reaction is included in the INVERTERON pack.  
Special considerations following an interruption of INVERTERON therapy: If therapy with INVERTERON has been discontinued and restarting therapy is under consideration, the reason for discontinuation should be evaluated to ensure that the patient did not have symptoms of a hypersensitivity reaction. Patients who have stopped INVERTERON due to possible adverse reactions or illness should be advised to contact their doctor before restarting. Hypersensitivity cannot be ruled out if INVERTERON should not be restarted. There have been infrequent reports of hypersensitivity reaction following re-introduction of INVERTERON where the interruption was preceded by a single key symptom (e.g. rash, fever or gastrointestinal symptoms). When patients who have discontinued INVERTERON present with an indeterminate diagnosis of hypersensitivity (single symptom), the doctor should:  
• Assess the probability that hypersensitivity preceded the interruption.  
• Assess the risk: benefit of re-initiating INVERTERON.  
• Select the appropriate medical setting in which to reintroduce INVERTERON, if such a decision is made. Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in patients who have restarted therapy, and who had no apparent preceding symptoms of a hypersensitivity reaction. Some of these cases were poorly documented. The clinical significance of these reports is unclear. If a decision is made to restart INVERTERON, this must be done only if medical care can be accessed readily by the patient or their carers.

**Essential patient information:** Prescribers must ensure that patients are fully informed regarding the following hypersensitivity reaction:  
• Patients must be made aware of the possibility of a hypersensitivity reaction to INVERTERON that may result in a life-threatening reaction or death.  
• Patients developing signs or symptoms possibly linked with a hypersensitivity reaction MUST CONTACT their doctor IMMEDIATELY.  
• In order to avoid restarting INVERTERON, patients who have experienced a hypersensitivity reaction should be asked to return the remaining INVERTERON tablets or oral solution to the pharmacy.  
• Patients who have stopped INVERTERON for any reason, and particularly due to adverse reactions or illness, must be advised to contact their doctor before restarting.  
• Each patient should be reminded to read the package leaflet included in the INVERTERON pack. They should be reminded of the importance of removing the Alert Card included in the pack and keeping it with them at all times.

**COMPOSITION**

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
Each film-coated tablet contains abacavir sulphate equivalent to 300 mg of abacavir.  
Excipients: Colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium starch glycolate, and the coating material Opadry Yellow 13K52177 contains hypromellose, iron oxide yellow (C.I. No. 77492), polysorbate 80, titanium dioxide (C.I. No. 77891) and triacetin.  
Sugar free.

**INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION 20 mg/ml:**  
Each 1 ml contains:  
Abacavir sulphate equivalent to 20 mg of abacavir.  
Preservatives: Methyl paraben, 0.15 % w/v  
Propyl paraben, 0.018 % w/v  
Excipients: Banana flavour 85509H, non-crystallising sorbitol solution, propylene glycol, purified water, saccharin sodium, strawberry flavour 13407-33.  
Contains sugar (sorbitol): 10.3 g per daily dose.

**PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION**

A.20.2.8 Antivirals

**PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION**

**Pharmacodynamic properties**  
Abacavir is a nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitor. It is an antiviral agent against HIV-1 and HIV-2, including HIV-1 isolates that are resistant to zidovudine, lamivudine, zalcitabine, didanosine or nevirapine. *In vitro* studies have demonstrated that its mechanism of action in relation to HIV is inhibition of the HIV reverse transcriptase enzyme, an event that results in chain termination and interruption of the viral replication cycle. Abacavir shows synergy *in vitro* in combination with nevirapine and zidovudine. It has been shown to be additive in combination with didanosine, zalcitabine, lamivudine and stavudine.

Abacavir-resistant isolates of HIV-1 have been selected *in vitro* and are associated with specific genotypic changes in the reverse transcriptase (RT) codon region (codons M184V, K65R, L74V and Y115F). Viral resistance to abacavir develops relatively slowly *in vitro* and in clinical practice. Abacavir-resistant HIV-1 isolates are rare. IC<sub>50</sub> over wild-type virus, which may be a clinically relevant level. Isolates resistant to abacavir may also show reduced sensitivity to lamivudine, zalcitabine and/or didanosine, but remain sensitive to zidovudine and stavudine. Cross-resistance between abacavir and protease inhibitors is unlikely. Treatment failure following initial therapy with abacavir, lamivudine and zidovudine is mainly associated with the M184V alone, thus maintaining many therapeutic options for a second line regimen.

**In therapy experienced patients:** Limited data show that the addition of INVERTERON to nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors provides additional benefit in reducing viral load, and increasing CD4 cell count. The degree of benefit will depend on the nature and duration of prior therapy, which may have been selected for cross-resistance to abacavir.  
**Pharmacokinetic properties**  
**Absorption:** Abacavir is well absorbed following oral administration. The absolute bioavailability of oral abacavir in adults is about 83 %. Following oral administration, the mean time (t<sub>max</sub>) to maximal serum concentrations of abacavir is about 1.0 hour for the solution formulation.  
Food delayed absorption and decreased C<sub>max</sub> but did not affect overall plasma concentrations (AUC). Therefore abacavir can be taken with or without food.

**Distribution:** Studies in HIV infected patients have shown good penetration of abacavir into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), with a CSF to plasma AUC ratio of between 30 to 44 %. In a phase 1 pharmacokinetic study, the penetration of abacavir into the CSF was investigated following a single 300 mg twice a day dose. The AUC of the metabolites were in the concentration of abacavir achieved in the CSF 1.5 hours post dose was 0.14 µg/ml. In a further pharmacokinetic study of 600 mg twice a day, the CSF concentration of abacavir increased over time, from approximately 0.13 µg/ml at 0.5 to 1 hour after dosing, to approximately 0.74 µg/ml after 3 to 4 hours. While peak concentrations may not have been attained by 4 hours, the observed values are 4-fold greater than the IC<sub>50</sub> of abacavir 0.08 µg/ml or 0.26 µM.  
Plasma protein binding studies *in vitro* indicate that abacavir binds only moderately (~49 %) to human plasma proteins at therapeutic concentrations. This indicates a low likelihood for medicine interactions through plasma protein binding displacement.

**Metabolism:** Abacavir is primarily metabolised by the liver with less than 2 % of the administered dose being renally excreted, as unchanged compound. The primary pathways of metabolism in man are via alcohol dehydrogenase and by glucuronidation to produce the 5-carboxylic acid and 5-glucuronide which account for about 66 % of the dose in the urine.  
**Elimination:** The mean half-life of abacavir is about 1.5 hours. Following multiple oral doses of abacavir 300 mg twice a day there is no significant medicine accumulation. Elimination of abacavir is via hepatic metabolism with subsequent excretion of metabolites primarily in the urine. The metabolites and unchanged abacavir account for about 83 % of the administered abacavir dose in the urine, the remainder is eliminated in the faeces.

**Special populations:**

**Hepatic impairment:** Abacavir is metabolised primarily by the liver. The pharmacokinetics of abacavir have been studied in patients with mild hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh score 5 - 6). The results showed that there was a mean increase of 1.69-fold in the AUC of abacavir and 1.56-fold in the AUC of the metabolites when the metabolites were not modified by the liver disease. However, the rates of formation and elimination of these were decreased. The pharmacokinetics have not been studied in patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment, therefore abacavir is contraindicated in these patient groups.

**Renal impairment:** Abacavir is primarily metabolised by the liver with approximately 2 % of abacavir excreted unchanged in the urine. The pharmacokinetics of abacavir in patients with renal impairment are similar to patients with normal renal function. Therefore no dosage reduction is required in patients with renal impairment.  
**Children:** Abacavir is well absorbed from an oral solution administered to children. The overall pharmacokinetic parameters in children are comparable to adults, with slightly greater variability in plasma concentrations. The recommended dose for children from 3 months to 12 years is 8 mg/kg twice daily. This will provide slightly higher mean plasma concentrations in children, ensuring that therapeutic concentrations equivalent to 300 mg twice a day in adults. There are insufficient safety data to recommend the use of abacavir in infants less than 3 months old.

**Elderly:** The pharmacokinetics of abacavir have not been studied in patients over 65 years of age. When treating elderly patients, consideration needs to be given to the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal and cardiac function, and concomitant disease or other medicine therapy.

**INDICATIONS**

INVERTERON is indicated in antiretroviral combination with other ARV therapy for the treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infected adults and children.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

INVERTERON is contraindicated:  
- in patients with known hypersensitivity to abacavir or to any ingredient of the formulations  
- in patients with a hereditary fructose intolerance  
- in patients with liver function impairment



- in pregnancy and lactation  
- in infants under 3 months of age  
- in patients known to have the HLA-B\*57:01 allele (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS).

**WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS**

**Hypersensitivity:**  
Patients receiving INVERTERON may develop a hypersensitivity reaction which in rare cases has proved fatal. This is characterised by the appearance of symptoms indicating multi-organ/body-system involvement. Patients who develop a hypersensitivity reaction must discontinue INVERTERON and MUST NOT be re-challenged with INVERTERON (see SIDE EFFECTS).  
Carriage of the HLA-B\*57:01 allele is associated with a significantly increased risk of a hypersensitivity reaction to INVERTERON.  
Before initiating treatment with INVERTERON, screening for carriage of the HLA-B\*57:01 allele should be performed in any HIV-infected patient, irrespective of racial origin. Screening is also recommended prior to re-initiation of INVERTERON in patients of unknown HLA-B\*57:01 status who have previously tolerated the use of abacavir. INVERTERON should not be used in patients known to carry the HLA-B\*57:01 allele, unless no other therapeutic option is available based on the treatment history and resistance testing (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).  
In any patient treated with INVERTERON, the clinical diagnosis of suspected hypersensitivity reaction must remain the basis of clinical decision-making. Even in the absence of HLA-B\*57:01 allele, it is important to permanently discontinue INVERTERON and not re-challenge with INVERTERON if a hypersensitivity reaction cannot be ruled out on clinical grounds, due to the potential for a severe or even fatal reaction.

**Lactic acidosis/hyperlactataemia**  
Use of INVERTERON can result in potentially fatal lactic acidosis as a consequence of mitochondrial dysfunction. Clinical features are non-specific, and include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dyspnoea, fatigue and weight loss. In patients with suspicious symptoms or biochemistry, measure the venous lactate level (normal < 2 mmol/l) and the serum bicarbonates and respond as follows:  
- Lactate 2-5 mmol/l with minimum symptoms: switch to agents that are less likely to cause lactic acidosis.  
- Lactate 5-10 mmol/l with symptoms and/or with reduced standard bicarbonate: Stop NRTIs and change treatment option. Once lactate has settled, use medicines that are less likely to cause lactic acidosis. Exclude other causes, (e.g. sepsis, uraemia, diabetic ketoacidosis, thyrotoxicosis and hyperthyroidism).  
- Lactate > 10 mmol/l: STOP all therapy (80 % mortality).  
The above lactate values may not be applicable to paediatric patients.  
Caution should be exercised when administering INVERTERON to patients with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with INVERTERON should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity.

**Hepato-biliary disorders:**  
Severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including abacavir, in the treatment of HIV infection (see SIDE EFFECTS). A majority of these cases have been in women. Caution should be exercised when administering INVERTERON to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with INVERTERON should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of hepatotoxicity.

**Mitochondrial dysfunction:**  
Abacavir was not mutagenic in bacterial tests, but showed activity *in vitro* in the human lymphocyte chromosome aberration assay, the mouse lymphoma assay, and in *in vivo* micronucleus test. This is consistent with the known activity of other nucleoside analogues. These results suggest that a carcinogenic risk to humans is outweighed by the potential clinical benefit. Mild myocardial degeneration in the heart of mice and rats was observed following administration of abacavir for 2 years. The systemic exposures were equivalent to 7 to 24 times the expected systemic exposure in humans. The clinical significance of these findings has not been determined.

**Lipodystrophy 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 increased serum lipid and glucose levels in HIV patients.  
Clinical examination should include evaluation for physical signs of fat redistribution. Patients with evidence of lipodystrophy should have a thorough cardiovascular risk assessment.

**Gastrointestinal disorders:**  
Pancreatitis has been reported but a causal relationship to INVERTERON treatment is uncertain. In general, adverse events have been transient and not treatment-limiting.  
**Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome:**  
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 starting combination Anti-Retroviral Therapy (cART). Typically, such reaction presents by paradoxically increased signs of infectious infection being treated with the use of an antismicrobial agent. IRIS disease, often with an atypical inflammatory presentation. IRIS usually develops within the first three months of initiation of ART 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 respond to glucocorticoids, but there is only limited evidence for this in patients with tuberculosis. 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 aches and pain, joint stiffness or difficulty in movement.

**Opportunistic infections:**  
Patients receiving INVERTERON 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 INVERTERON, does not prevent the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Appropriate precautions should continue to be employed.  
**Effects on ability to drive and use machines:**  
INVERTERON may affect the ability to drive or operate machinery. Patients should be advised to determine how they are affected before they drive or operate machinery.

**Excipients:**  
INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION contains sorbitol which is metabolised to fructose and is therefore not suitable for patients who have a hereditary fructose intolerance (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Sorbitol contained in INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION may cause abdominal pain and diarrhoea.  
**INTERACTIONS**  
Based on the results of *in vitro* experiments and the known major metabolic pathways of abacavir, the potential for interactions involving abacavir is low. Abacavir shows no potential to inhibit metabolism mediated by the cytochrome P450 3A4 enzyme.  
It has also been shown *in vitro* not to interact with medicines that are metabolised by CYP3A4, CYP2C9 or CYP2D6 enzymes. Induction of hepatic metabolism has not been observed in clinical studies. Therefore, there is little potential for medicine interactions with antiretroviral protease inhibitors and other medicines metabolised by major P450 enzymes. Clinical studies have shown that there are no clinically significant interactions between abacavir, zidovudine, and lamivudine.

**Ethanol:** The metabolism of abacavir is altered by concomitant ethanol resulting in an increase in AUC of abacavir of about 41 %. No dose reduction of abacavir is necessary. Abacavir has no effect on the metabolism of ethanol.  
**Methadone:** In a pharmacokinetic study, co-administration of 600 mg abacavir twice daily with methadone showed a 35 % reduction in abacavir C<sub>max</sub> and a one hour delay in t<sub>max</sub>, but the AUC was unchanged. The changes in abacavir pharmacokinetics are not considered clinically relevant. In this study abacavir increased the mean methadone systemic clearance by 22 %. This change is not considered clinically relevant for the majority of patients, however occasionally methadone titration may be required.

**Retinoids:** Retinoid compounds such as isotretinoin are eliminated via alcohol dehydrogenase. Interaction with abacavir is possible but has not been studied.

**HUMAN REPRODUCTION:**

**Pregnancy:**  
INVERTERON is contraindicated in pregnancy and lactation (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).  
Safety and/or efficacy have not been established.  
**Lactation:**  
Abacavir is excreted into human milk. There are no data available on the safety of abacavir when administered to babies less than three months old. HIV infected women should not breastfeed their infants in order to avoid transmission of HIV.

**DOSE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

**Adults:**  
Adults and adolescents over 12 years: The recommended dose of INVERTERON is one tablet of 300 mg or 15 ml twice daily.  
**Children:**  
Children from 3 months to 12 years: The recommended dosage is 8 mg/kg twice daily up to a maximum of 600 mg daily. The tablet formulation (scored) is not suitable for patients weighing ≤ 16 kg.  
Children less than 3 months: There are no data available on the use of INVERTERON in this age group.

INVERTERON can be taken with or without food.  
An oral dosing syringe is provided for accurate measurement of the prescribed dose of oral solution. Therapy should be initiated by a medical practitioner experienced in the management of HIV-infection.  
Renal impairment: No dosage adjustment of INVERTERON is necessary in patients with renal dysfunction (see Pharmacokinetic properties).  
Hepatic impairment: Abacavir is metabolised primarily by the liver. There are insufficient data to recommend the use of INVERTERON in patients with impaired hepatic function.

**SIDE EFFECTS**

**Hypersensitivity:** Patients receiving abacavir as in INVERTERON, may develop a hypersensitivity reaction which may prove fatal. This is characterised by the appearance of symptoms indicating multi-organ/body-system involvement.  
Almost all patients developing hypersensitivity reactions will have fever and/or rash (usually maculopapular or urticarial) as part of the syndrome; however, reactions have also occurred without rash or fever.  
Symptoms can occur at any time while being treated with INVERTERON, but usually appear within the first 6 weeks of initiation of treatment with INVERTERON (median time to onset 11 days).

The signs and symptoms of this hypersensitivity reaction are listed below:  
Blood and the lymphatic system disorders:  
Frequent: Lymphopenia.  
Nervous system disorders:  
Frequent: Paraesthesiae, headache.  
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:  
Frequent: Dyspnoea, sore throat, cough.  
Gastrointestinal disorders:  
Frequent: Mouth ulceration, diarrhoea, abdominal pain.  
Frequencies unknown: Nausea, vomiting.

Hepato-biliary disorders:  
Frequent: Hepatic failure, elevated liver function tests.  
Less frequent: Lactic acidosis.  
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:  
Frequent: Rash (usually maculopapular or urticarial).  
Mucocutaneous, connective tissue and bone disorders:  
Frequent: Elevated creatine phosphokinase, myalgia, myolysis, arthralgia.

Renal and urinary disorders:  
Frequent: Elevated creatinine, renal failure.  
General disorders and administration site conditions:  
Frequent: Fatigue, fever, malaise, oedema, lymphadenopathy, hypotension, conjunctivitis, anaphylaxis.  
Some patients with hypersensitivity reactions were initially thought to have respiratory disease (pneumonia, bronchitis, pharyngitis), a flu-like illness, gastroenteritis or reactions to other medications. This delay in diagnosis of hypersensitivity has resulted in INVERTERON being continued or reintroduced, leading to more severe hypersensitivity reactions or death. Therefore, the diagnosis of hypersensitivity reactions should be carefully considered for patients presenting with symptoms of these diseases.

Symptoms worsen with continued therapy, and usually resolve upon discontinuation of INVERTERON. Restarting INVERTERON following a hypersensitivity reaction results in a prompt return of symptoms within hours. This recurrence of the hypersensitivity reaction may be more severe than on initial presentation, and may include life-threatening hypotension and death. Patients who develop this hypersensitivity reaction MUST discontinue INVERTERON and MUST NOT be re-challenged.  
An Alert Card with information for the patient about the hypersensitivity reaction is included in the INVERTERON pack.

The adverse events reported during therapy for HIV disease with INVERTERON were similar in adults and children.  
**Metabolism and nutrition disorders:**  
Less frequent: Anorexia.  
Frequencies unknown: Elevated blood glucose and triglyceride concentrations.  
**Nervous system disorders:**  
Frequent: Headache.  
**Gastrointestinal disorders:**  
Frequent: Diarrhoea.  
Less frequent: Pancreatitis.  
Frequencies unknown: Nausea, vomiting.

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:**  
Frequent: Skin rash (without systemic symptoms).  
Frequencies unknown: Erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.  
**General disorders and administration site conditions:**  
Frequent: Lethargy and fatigue, fever.

**KNOWLEDGE OF OVERDOSEAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT**  
INVERTERON following a hypersensitivity reaction results in a prompt return of symptoms within hours. This evidence of toxicity (see SIDE EFFECTS), and standard supportive treatment applied as necessary. It is not known whether abacavir can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or haemodialysis.

**IDENTIFICATION**

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
Yellow coloured, bi-concave, capsule shaped, coated tablets, debossed with 'D' and '88' on either side of the score line on one side and plain with a score line on the other side.  
**INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION 20 mg/ml:**  
Clear to opalescent, yellowish, strawberry-banana flavoured liquid, in 250 ml white round HDPE bottle.

**PRESENTATION**

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
Tablets are packed in a white round 110 ml HDPE container with 38 mm polypropylene closure with induction sealing wad.  
**Pack size:** Each container contains 60 tablets.  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 20 mg/ml:**  
White, round 250 ml HDPE container with 28 mm polypropylene closure with screw cap with expanded polyethylene wad and offer proof seal.  
**Pack size:** One white, round 250 ml HDPE bottle closed with screw cap and packed in a printed carton with package leaflet.  
A syringe is included in the pack.

**STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS**

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
Store at or below 30 °C.  
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.  
**INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION 20 mg/ml:**  
Store at or below 30 °C. Keep well closed.  
Discard oral solution two months after first opening.  
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

**REGISTRATION NUMBER**

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:** 41/20.2.8/0248  
**INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION 20 mg/ml:** 41/20.2.8/0396  
**NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**  
Novagen Pharma (Pty) Ltd.  
Office 2, 100 Sovereign Drive  
Route 21 Corporate Park  
Nellmapius Drive  
Irene 0157  
Pretoria, South Africa

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS PACKAGE INSERT**

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
Registration Date: 12 June 2009  
Date of most recently revised package insert as approved by Council: 13 January 2020.  
**INVERTERON ORAL SOLUTION 20 mg/ml:**  
Registration Date: 12 June 2009  
Date of most recently revised package insert as approved by Council: 13 January 2020.

**BEFORE DISPENSING**

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

**SCHEDULING STATUS**

**54**  
**PROPRIETARY NAME, STRENGTH AND PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg (Tablet)**

Read this entire leaflet carefully before you start taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg  
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.  
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor or your pharmacist.  
- Do not take INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg if you are pregnant or you should not share your medicine with other people. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

**HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTION (SERIOUS ALLERGIC REACTION)**  
Since INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg contains abacavir some patients taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg may develop a hypersensitivity reaction (serious allergic reaction) which can be life-threatening if you continue to take INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg. It is essential that you read the information on this reaction under "Take special care with INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg" of this leaflet. There is also an Alert Card included in the INVERTERON pack, to remind you and medical staff about abacavir hypersensitivity. This card should be removed and kept with you at all times.  
**CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY for advice on whether you should stop taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg if:**  
1) you get a skin rash OR  
2) you get one or more symptoms from at least TWO of the following groups  
- fever  
- shortness of breath, sore throat or cough  
- nausea or vomiting or diarrhoea or abdominal pain  
- severe tiredness or achiness or generally feeling ill.  
If you have discontinued INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg due to a hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction, YOU MUST NEVER TAKE INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg again. If you have discontinued INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg due to a hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction, YOU MUST NEVER TAKE INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg again. If you stop taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg for any other reason, do not start taking it again without first talking to your doctor. If you are hypersensitive (allergic) to abacavir you should return all your unused INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg to your pharmacy for disposal. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

**1. WHAT INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg CONTAINS**  
Each film-coated tablet contains abacavir sulphate equivalent to abacavir 300 mg.  
The other ingredients are colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose and sodium starch glycolate. The coating material, Opadry Yellow 13K52177, contains hypromellose, iron oxide yellow (C.I. No. 77492), polysorbate 80, titanium dioxide (C.I. No. 77891) and triacetin.  
Sugar free.

**2. WHAT INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg ARE USED FOR**  
INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg is a prescription medicine used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children who are infected with HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus), the virus that causes AIDS. INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg reduces the growth of HIV, which helps your body maintain its supply of CD4 cells, which are important for fighting HIV and other infections.  
INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg will not cure your HIV infection, and does not prevent a patient infected with HIV from passing the virus to other people.

**3. BEFORE YOU TAKE INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg**  
Do not take INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:  
- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to abacavir or any of the other ingredients of INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg  
- if you have liver disease.  
- if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.  
- INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg must not be given to infants under 3 months of age.  
- INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg should not be used in patients known to carry the HLA-B\*57:01 allele. Ask your doctor if you are unsure about this.

**Take special care with INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
**HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTION (SERIOUS ALLERGIC REACTION):** Patients who are treated with abacavir, as in INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg, may develop a hypersensitivity reaction.  
The most common symptoms of this reaction are high temperature (fever) and a skin rash. Other frequently observed signs are nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and severe tiredness.  
Other symptoms may include joint or muscle pain, swelling of the neck, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough and headache, inflammation of the eye (conjunctivitis), mouth ulcers or low blood pressure may occur.  
The symptoms of this allergic reaction can occur at any time during treatment with INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg. However, they usually occur in the first six weeks of treatment. The symptoms worsen with continued treatment and may be life-threatening if treatment is continued.  
**CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY for advice on whether you should stop taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg if:**  
1) you get a skin rash OR  
2) you get one or more symptoms from at least TWO of the following groups  
- fever  
- shortness of breath, sore throat or cough  
- nausea or vomiting or diarrhoea or abdominal pain  
- severe tiredness or achiness or generally feeling ill.  
If you have discontinued INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg due to a hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction, YOU MUST NEVER TAKE INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg or any other medicine containing abacavir again, as you may experience a life-threatening lowering of your blood pressure or death.

If you have stopped taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg for any reason, particularly because you think you are getting side effects, it is important to contact your doctor before restarting INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg. Your doctor will check whether any symptoms you had may be related to this hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction. If your doctor thinks there is a possibility that these reactions were related, you will be instructed to return INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg or any other abacavir containing medicine again. It is important that you follow this advice.

Occasionally life-threatening hypersensitivity reactions have occurred when abacavir was restarted in patients who had stopped the symptoms on the Alert Card before starting INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg. Hypersensitivity (allergic) reactions have been reported when abacavir was restarted in patients who had no symptoms of hypersensitivity before stopping.  
If you are hypersensitive (allergic) to abacavir you should return all your unused INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg to your pharmacy for disposal. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg** can cause a condition called lactic acidosis (excess of lactic acid in your blood), together with an enlarged liver. Lactic acidosis can be fatal. Call your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, feeling very weak and tired, or weight loss.  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg** can cause severe effects on the liver. Call your doctor at once if you have any of the following symptoms:  
- dark urine, clay-coloured stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).  
- Tell your doctor if you have a history of liver disease.  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg** should not be used in patients with the redistribution/accumulation of body fat, including central obesity (fat around the stomach), dorso-cervical fat (fat accumulation on the back of the neck), enlargement (buffalo hump), peripheral wasting (loss of at least 10 % of body weight and muscle), facial wasting (loss of fat from the face), breast enlargement, and elevated serum lipid (including cholesterol) and glucose (sugar) levels in HIV patients.  
**Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome** (which causes inflammation throughout the body) can occur shortly after starting combination Anti-Retroviral Therapy (cART). Common examples of IRIS reactions to opportunistic diseases are tuberculosis, cytomegalovirus retinitis (eye infection caused by a virus), and cryptococcal meningitis (inflammation of the membrane in the brain causing intense headaches, fever, sensitivity to light and nausea).  
**Cases of osteonecrosis** (a disease where bone dies due to a lack of blood flow) have been reported, particularly in patients with advanced HIV-disease and/or long-term exposure to combination antiretroviral therapy (cART). You should seek medical advice if you experience joint aches and pain, joint stiffness or difficulty in movement.  
**You may continue to have HIV related illnesses or develop opportunistic infections** (infections that occur more frequently and are more severe in patients with weakened immune systems) and other complications of HIV infection. You should therefore remain under close observation of a healthcare professional.  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg** will not cure your HIV infection, and does not prevent a patient infected with HIV from passing HIV to other people. To protect others, you must continue to practice safe sex, safe injection and take precautions to prevent others from coming into contact with your blood and other contaminated body fluids.

**Taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg with food and drink:**  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg** can be taken with or without food.  
**Do not take INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg with alcohol.**

**Pregnancy and Breastfeeding:**  
**INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg** should not be used during pregnancy and if you are breastfeeding.  
**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.**  
If you are pregnant or breastfeeding your baby, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice before taking INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg.

**Driving and using machinery:**  
INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg may affect your ability to drive and use machines. You should make sure that you know how INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg affects you before driving or using machines.

**Taking other medicines with INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg:**  
Always tell your healthcare professional if you are taking any other medicine. This includes complementary or traditional medicines.  
**Tell your doctor if you are using any of the following medicines:** methadone or oral vitamin A related medicines e.g. isotretinoin. If you are using any of these medicines, you may not be able to take INVERTERON TABLETS 300 mg, or you may need dosage adjustments or your doctor may need to monitor you carefully for side effects.

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