Evotaz

Generic Name: atazanavir + cobicistat

Abbreviation: ATV/c

Drug Class: Protease Inhibitors (PIs)

Company: Bristol-Myers Squibb

Approval Status: Approved

Generic Version Available: No

Drug Indication

A component of alternative treatment regimens for antiretroviral-naive people living with HIV, as indicated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents.
Visit https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/guidelines/hiv-clinical-guidelines-adult-and-adolescent-arv/ for the full DHHS guidelines for adults and adolescents.

General Info

Evotaz is an HIV medication. It is in a category of HIV medicines called protease inhibitors. Evotaz was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use by people living with HIV in January 2015.

Evotaz is a combination of two drugs: Reyataz (atazanavir) and Tybost (cobicistat). Both of these drugs can be purchased individually for use in combination with other HIV drugs.

Evotaz must be combined with other HIV drugs.

Dosage

Adult Dose: One tablet once a day. Each tablet contains 300 mg Reyataz (atazanavir) + 150 mg Tybost (cobicistat).

Pediatric Dose: N/A

Dosing Info: Take with food.

Side Effects

Reyataz can increase levels of bilirubin, a pigment found in the blood. Increased bilirubin can cause the skin, nails, and the whites of the eyes to appear yellowish-brown. Increased bilirubin can also be a sign of liver damage. However, in people who have taken Reyataz or Evotaz in clinical trials, an increase in bilirubin has not been associated with any other signs of liver damage.

There have been reports of patients developing gallstones (*cholelithiasis*) or kidney stones (nephrolithiasis) while on HIV drug regimens containing Reyataz or Evotaz.

Changes in the way your heart beats may occur when taking Reyataz. If you get dizzy or lightheaded these could be symptoms of a heart problem and should be reported to your health care provider immediately.

Other possible side effects of Reyataz include headaches, nausea, abdominal discomfort, and rash.

Some people may experience increases in their lipid levels (triglycerides and cholesterol) or diabetes risk while being treated with protease inhibitors. These problems are much less common with atazanavir-based regimens compared with most other protease inhibitors.

Drug-induced hepatitis (liver injury) has been reported in people taking protease inhibitors. This usually occurred in people who had extremely low CD4 cells, were taking multiple other medications and who were also infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV). Lab tests to monitor liver function is an important component of routine follow-up care and important for people using protease inhibitors.

The cobicistat in Evotaz can cause minor increases in serum creatinine, a potential sign of kidney toxicity. These increases do not appear to affect creatinine clearance (CrCl), an even better indicator of kidney health. However, Evotaz should not be used in combination with regimens containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (e.g., Viread or Truvada) by people with CrCL below 70 mL/min. CrCl should be tested before and during treatment with regimens containing Evotaz and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate.

Drug Interactions

The following medications should not be taken while you are being treated with Evotaz:

Acid reflux/heartburn medications: Propulsid (cisapride)
Antibiotics: Rifadin (rifampin)
Antimigraine medications: Methergine, Methylergometrine (methylergonovine); Ergostat, Cafergot, Ercaf, Wigraine (ergotamine); Ergotrate, Methergine (ergonovine); or D.H.E. 45, Migranal (dihydroergotamine)
Anti-gout: Colcrys (colchicine)
Chemotherapeutic drugs: Camptosar (irinotecan)
Cholesterol-lowering drugs (statins): Zocor (simvastatin) and Mevacor (lovastatin)
Heart medications: Ranexa (ranolazine) and Multaq (dronedarone)
HIV medications: Crixivan (indinavir), VIramune/Viramune XR (nevirapine)
Antipsychotics: Latuda (lurasidone) and Orap (pimozide)
Sedatives: Versed (midazolam) and Halcion (triazolam)
Enlarged prostate: Uroxatral (alfuzosin)
Pulmonary Hypertension: Revatio (sildenafil)
Herbal products: St. John's wort

Evotaz should not be combined with any HIV medications that contain any of the active ingredients in Evotaz. These include: Prezcobix, Reyataz, Tybost, Stribild, and Genvoya.

Important hepatitis C treatment drug-drug interactions: Evotaz can be combined with Sovaldi (sofosbuvir), Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir), ribavirin, and pegylated interferon alfa. Do not use Evotaz with Olysio/Sovriad (simeprevir) or Viekira Pak (ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir/dasabuvir).

Evotaz, particularly its cobicistat component, can increase the levels of many other drugs in the body, potentially increasing the risk of serious side effects. Dosage adjustments or substitutions may be necessary if you are prescribed certain medications from any of the following drug classes: antiarrhythmics, antibiotics, cancer chemotherapeutic drugs, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antifungals, anti-gout medications, antimalarial drugs, beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers, corticosteroids (oral and inhaled), endothelin receptor antagonists, hepatitis C medications, statins, hormonal contraceptives, immune-suppressants, inhaled beta agonists, narcotic medications (for pain and opioid dependence), neuroleptics/anti-seizure medications, erectile dysfunction drugs, and sedatives/hypnotics. Consult the Evotaz package insert for more details: http://packageinserts.bms.com/pi/pi_evotaz.pdf

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Other Info

Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you have kidney disease or liver disease (including hepatitis B). In addition, tell your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, if you are breastfeeding, and all your medical conditions, including all prescription and over-the-counter medications and supplements you are taking.

For More Info: http://packageinserts.bms.com/pi/pi_evotaz.pdf

Co-Pay Program Info: https://www.poz.com/basics/hiv-basics/drug-assistance-programs

Patient Assistance Program Info:
https://www.poz.com/basics/hiv-basics/drug-assistance-programs

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