

Drug Interactions - HIV medicines, part 6

HIV treatment, called antiretroviral therapy or ART, is a combination of HIV medicines, called an HIV regimen.



A reaction between two or more drugs is called a drug-drug interaction. A drug interaction can also occur between a drug and a food or beverage. This is called a drug-food interaction. A medical condition can also cause a drug interaction. This is called a drug-condition interaction.

Medicines help us feel better and stay healthy. But drug interactions can cause problems by decreasing or increasing the action of a medicine. Interactions can also cause bad side effects.

Drug-drug interactions between HIV medicines are common. Interactions between HIV medicines may decrease or increase the amount of an HIV medicine in the blood. The change in the amount of medicine in the blood can make the HIV medicine less effective, more effective, or so strong that it causes dangerous side effects.

Drug-drug interactions between HIV medicines and other medicines are also common. For example, some HIV medicines may make hormonal birth control pills less effective. Women who are HIV positive and using hormonal contraceptives may need to use an extra or different method of birth control to prevent pregnancy.

Food or drinks can affect how HIV medicines work. They can increase or decrease the amount of medicine in the blood. Depending on the HIV medicine, these changes in the amount of medicine in the blood may be helpful or harmful.

Pregnancy is a condition that can affect how the body uses HIV medicines. Because of this, changes in the doses of an HIV medicine may be needed during different stages of pregnancy.



Tell your health care provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines you are taking or plan to take. Also tell your health care provider about any vitamins, nutritional supplements, and herbal products you take. Drug labels and package inserts include important information about possible interactions. Read them!

Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.