

Who is the leaflet for?

This leaflet is for patients starting on treatment with adefovir for hepatitis B infection to provide an overview of treatment and important information.

What is adefovir for and how do I take it?

Adefovir is commonly used for patients with hepatitis B. It is a tablet which should be taken by mouth and the usual dose is 10mg once a day. Your doctor or nurse specialist may prescribe a different dose if there are problems with your kidney function.

It is usually continued long-term and should not be stopped without discussion with your doctor or nurse specialist.

Are there any problems with taking adefovir?

Broadly, adefovir is safe and well tolerated but you should be aware of the following issues.

Side effects

The most common side effects from adefovir include weakness, headaches, abdominal pain and nausea

Initially, blood tests will need to be taken between two and four weeks after taking the medication, the details of which will be discussed at the time. Should you become very unwell soon after starting the medication, please contact your doctor or liver nurse.

Missed doses

To prevent viral mutation and liver damage, it is very important that you do not miss doses of adefovir. If you do miss a dose, but remember within twelve hours then take your usual dose. If it is more than twelve hours then skip the missed dose, but take your next dose when it is due.

Pregnancy

Do not start adefovir if you are pregnant. Should you wish to plan a pregnancy on adefovir this should be discussed carefully with your doctor or nurse first.

If you or your partner is of a child-bearing age it is important that you take precautions to prevent pregnancy with effective contraception whilst you are on treatment and for at least six weeks after you stop treatment.

Can I spread hepatitis B whilst I am on treatment?

Treatment with adefovir for hepatitis B does not stop you from passing the infection on, so make sure that you continue to take appropriate preventative measures. These can be discussed in more detail with your Doctor or liver nurse.

Further information

Further information about your tablet can be found in the patient information leaflet found in the tablet/capsule box or on the container.

Further information on hepatitis B can be found on the following websites:

- The British Liver Trust (www.britishlivertrust.org.uk)

- www.patient.co.uk
- www.easternliver.net