

[Home](#)2. [Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil](#)

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil

Pronunciation: *em-tri-cite-a-been ten-o-fo-vir di-so-prox-ill***Generic name:** emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil**Brand name:** [Truvada](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet**Drug class:** [Antiviral combinations](#)Medically reviewed by [Carmen Pope, BPharm](#). Last updated on Mar 16, 2025.[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Overdose](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil?

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil (Truvada) is a combination antiviral tablet that may be used to reduce the risk of adults and teenagers getting HIV-1 infection (this is called **HIV-1 PrEP** [[pre-exposure prophylaxis](#)]) **OR** to treat HIV-1 infection in combination with other HIV-1 medications.

- Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil is only approved for PrEP in adults and teenagers who weigh at least 77 pounds (at least 35 kg). It is used alongside practicing safer sex (for example, condom use).
- Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil can be used for HIV treatment in adults and teenagers who weigh at least 37 pounds (17 kg).
- Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil is not a cure for HIV or AIDS ([acquired immunodeficiency syndrome](#)).

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil (Truvada) is a prescription medicine that contains 2 antivirals, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil that both work by blocking the activity of reverse transcriptase, an enzyme produced by HIV that allows it to infect cells and make more viruses. They both belong to a class of drugs called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs).

When used for PrEP, emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil acts as a preventive measure against HIV-1. As long as consistent levels of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil are maintained in the blood, emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil will stop the virus from multiplying and spreading from the site of infection in the case where a person is exposed to the virus.

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, when taken in combination with at least one other HIV medicine, reduces the amount of HIV in the blood and keeps it at a low level. This reduces viral load and improves the CD4+ T cell count. Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil will not cure HIV infection or AIDS, but it may hold off damage to the immune system and the development of infections and diseases associated with AIDS.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil gained FDA approval on August 2, 2004 under the brand name Truvada. Generic emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil has been available since June 8, 2017.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil side effects

The **most common side effects of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil** in people who take it daily for **HIV-1 PrEP** include:

- headache
- stomach-area (abdomen) pain
- decreased weight.

The **most common side effects of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil** in people who take it **in combination with other antivirals** for HIV-1 treatment include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- tiredness
- headache
- dizziness
- depression
- problems sleeping
- abnormal dreams
- rash.

Serious side effects and warnings

Do not take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil if you also take other medicines that contain emtricitabine, tenofovir, lamivudine, or adefovir.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil can cause the following serious side effects.

Worsening of hepatitis B virus infection (HBV). Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV before start or when you start treatment with emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. If you have an HBV infection and take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking it. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before it is all gone.
- Do not stop taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection, or give you a medicine to treat hepatitis B. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil.

New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and during treatment with emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. Your healthcare provider may tell you to take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil less often or to stop taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil if you

get new or worse kidney problems. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any **kidney problems** such as swelling, urinating less, or feeling tired or short of breath.

Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when taking medicines to treat HIV-1 infection. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil can affect your immune system (even weeks or months after you've used this medicine). Tell your doctor if you have **signs of a new infection** such as [fever](#), night sweats, swollen glands, [cold sores](#), [cough](#), [wheezing](#), [diarrhea](#), or [weight loss](#).

Bone problems can happen in some people who take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. Bone problems include bone pain, or softening or thinning of bones, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have sudden or unusual bone pain.

Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat. **Mild symptoms of lactic acidosis may worsen over time**, and this condition can be fatal.

Severe liver problems. In rare cases, severe liver problems can happen that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil **does not prevent other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)**. Practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to reduce the risk of getting STIs.

These are not all the possible side effects of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil**: hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil may cause other serious side effects. Also, call your doctor at once if you have:

- trouble speaking or swallowing, problems with balance or eye movement, weakness or prickly feeling; or
- swelling in your neck or throat (enlarged thyroid), menstrual changes, [impotence](#).
- **Liver problems** include swelling around your midsection, right-sided upper stomach pain, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [and jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

The misuse of antiretroviral drugs like emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for recreational purposes is a serious issue, particularly in regions with high HIV rates. This concerning trend has significant implications for public health. See [here](#) for more information.

It is not known if emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for the treatment of HIV-1 infection is safe and effective in children who weigh less than 37 pounds (17 kg), or when used for PrEP, for people who weigh less than 77 pounds (35 kg).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Emtricitabine / tenofovir disoproxil side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Truvada

Truvada is a combination antiviral tablet that may be used to reduce the risk of adults and ...

Reviews & ratings

6.2 / 10

[40 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Biktarvy

Biktarvy is a complete HIV-1 treatment in a once-a-day single tablet containing three antiviral ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[221 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Descovy

Descovy is used to treat and prevent HIV infection in adults and adolescents. When used for HIV-1 ...

Reviews & ratings

7.4 / 10

[22 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Dovato

Dovato is used to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children 12 years and older weighing at least ...

Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[49 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Before taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for PrEP

Do not use emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for PrEP if you are HIV-positive or have not confirmed you are HIV-negative.

You **must be HIV-1 negative to start emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil**. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for HIV-1 PrEP unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative. Some HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for at any time while taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, or if you have symptoms of a new HIV1 infection such as:

- tiredness
- fever
- joint or muscle aches
- headache
- sore throat
- vomiting or diarrhea
- rash
- night sweats
- enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

You **must stay HIV-negative** to keep taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for HIV-1 PrEP. Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners. Ask your partners with HIV-1 if they are taking anti-HIV-1 medicines and have an undetectable viral load. An undetectable viral load is when the amount of virus in the blood is too low to be measured in a lab test. To maintain an undetectable viral load, your partners must keep taking HIV-1 medicines every day. Your risk of getting HIV-1 is lower if your partners with HIV-1 are taking effective treatment.

- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other STIs such as syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. These infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.

If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away. They may want to do more tests to be sure you are still HIV-1 negative. Get information and support to help reduce sexual risk behaviors.

Do not miss any doses of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. Missing doses increases your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

If you do **become HIV-1 positive**, you need more medicine than emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil alone to treat HIV-1. emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, over time your HIV-1 may become harder to treat. Talk to your healthcare provider immediately if you do become HIV-1 positive.

 [Emtricitabine / tenofovir disoproxil pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

Before taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil (general information)

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have liver problems, including HBV infection
- have kidney problems or receive kidney dialysis treatment
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Pregnancy

It is not known if emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant during treatment with emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. There is a pregnancy registry for people who take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about you and your baby's health. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

Breastfeeding

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil can pass to your baby in your breast milk. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 or if you think you have recently become infected with HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

If you take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for HIV-1 PrEP, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

How should I take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil?

Take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

- If you take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil to treat HIV-1 infection, you need to take other HIV-1 medicines. Your healthcare provider will tell you what medicines to take and how to take them.
- If you take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for PrEP it may be the only tablet you take, unless you have other medical conditions.

Take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil 1 time each day. You may take this medicine **with or without food**.

- Children who take emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil are prescribed a lower-strength tablet than adults. Children should **swallow** the emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil tablet. Tell your healthcare provider if your child cannot swallow the tablet, because they may need a different HIV-1 medicine.
- If you are on dialysis, take this medicine after dialysis.
- Your healthcare provider will change the dose of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil as needed based on your child's weight.

Do not change your dose or stop taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil dosage

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil comes in tablet form in the following strengths:

- emtricitabine 100 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 150 mg
- emtricitabine 133 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 200 mg
- emtricitabine 167 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 250 mg
- emtricitabine 200 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg.

The dose of this medicine will be different for different patients. Follow your doctor's orders or the directions on the label. The following information includes only the average doses of this medicine. If your dose is different, do not change it unless your doctor tells you to do so.

For the prevention of HIV infection (PrEP)

Adults and teenagers weighing 77 pounds (35 kg) or more: 1 tablet once a day.

- Each tablet contains 200 milligrams (mg) of emtricitabine and 300 mg of tenofovir.

For treatment of HIV infection

Adults and teenagers weighing 77 pounds (35 kg) or more: 1 tablet once a day.

- Each tablet contains 200 milligrams (mg) of emtricitabine and 300 mg of tenofovir.

Children weighing 17 kg to less than 35 kg and who can swallow a whole tablet

Dosage is based on body weight and must be determined by your doctor:

- Body weight 62 lb (28 kg) to less than 77 lb (35 kg): 1 tablet once a day of emtricitabine 167 mg and tenofovir 250 mg
- Body weight 48 lb (22 kg) to less than 62 lb (28 kg): 1 tablet once a day of emtricitabine 133 mg and tenofovir 200 mg
- Body weight 37 lb (17 kg) to less than 48 lb (22 kg): 1 tablet once a day of emtricitabine 100 mg and tenofovir 150 mg.

i [Detailed Emtricitabine / tenofovir disoproxil dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Do not miss any doses of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil. Missing a dose increases your risk of getting HIV-1 infection if you are taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for PrEP. If you are taking emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for treatment of HIV-1, missing a dose may cause the amount of virus in your blood to increase. The virus may develop resistance to emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil and become harder to treat.

If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip that dose and take the next dose at your scheduled time. Do not double up on doses. Call your healthcare provider if you miss 2 or more doses in a row.

When your emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy

What happens if I overdose?

If you take too much emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What other drugs will affect emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medicines at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you use, which may increase side effects or make the medicines less effective.

Emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil can harm your kidneys, especially if you also use certain medicines for infections, [cancer](#), [osteoporosis](#), [organ transplant](#) rejection, [high blood pressure](#), or pain or [arthritis](#) (including [Advil](#), [Motrin](#), and [Aleve](#)).

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- **seizure medicine** - [carbamazepine](#), [oxcarbazepine](#), [phenytoin](#), [phenobarbital](#); or
- other antiviral medicine to treat [hepatitis C](#) or HIV.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may interact with emtricitabine and tenofovir. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Emtricitabine / tenofovir disoproxil drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

emtricitabine/<wbr>tenofovir disoproxil

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Storage

Store emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil tightly closed in the original container at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.

Do not use emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

Keep out of reach of children.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil ingredients

Various manufacturers make generic emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil and it is also manufactured under the brand Truvada.

Active ingredient: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil.

Inactive ingredients: These vary depending on the manufacturer, Refer to the emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil package insert of the brand you are taking.

Truvada inactive ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten-free). The 200 mg/300 mg strength tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701, which contains FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose 2910, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin. The 167 mg/250 mg, 133 mg/200 mg, and 100 mg/150 mg strength tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue, which contains FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose 2910, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil comes in tablet form in the following strengths:

- emtricitabine 100 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 150 mg
- emtricitabine 133 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 200 mg
- emtricitabine 167 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 250 mg
- emtricitabine 200 mg and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg.

Who makes emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil?

Gilead Sciences, Inc., makes emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil under the brand name Truvada.

Various generic manufacturers, such as Camber Pharmaceuticals, Aurobindo Pharma Limited, and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc make emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil.

Popular FAQ

Descovy vs Truvada: How do they compare for HIV / PrEP?



References

1. [Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil Package Insert \(Truvada\)](#)
2. [Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil Prescribing Information \(Truvada\)](#)

More about emtricitabine / tenofovir disoproxil

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(43\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: antiviral combinations](#)

Patient resources

- [Emtricitabine and tenofovir advanced reading](#)
- [Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate](#)

Other brands

[Truvada](#)

Professional resources

- [Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil monograph](#)
- [Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Truvada](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis](#)
- [Nonoccupational Exposure](#)
- [Occupational Exposure](#)
- [HIV Infection](#)


Further information

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.


[Medical Disclaimer](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability
Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

5.9 / 10

[43 Reviews](#)

Images

Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate 200 mg / 300 mg (L 24)



[View larger images](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)
[Advertising policy](#)
[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)
[Editorial policy](#)
[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)
[Sitemap](#)
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.