TIPRANAVIR (Aptivus®) & RITONAVIR (Norvir®)

What is Tipranavir?
- A protease inhibitor (PI) that inhibits the replication of the HIV virus in combination with other antiretroviral agents (ARV).
- Initial studies indicate that tipranavir may be active against strains of HIV that are already resistant to currently available protease inhibitors.
- Available as 250mg soft gel capsules in bottles of 120

What is Ritonavir?
- A protease inhibitor used to inhibit the replication of the HIV virus.
- Available as 100 mg tablet or a 100mg soft gel capsule and a 80mg/mL liquid.

Why am I taking these two protease inhibitors?
- When tipranavir and ritonavir are taken together, ritonavir will "boost" the level of tipranavir and increase its effect.

How do I take these?
- Usual adult dose is tipranavir 500mg (ie 2 capsules) twice daily, with ritonavir 200mg (2 tablets or capsules) twice daily. Take tipranavir and ritonavir at the same time. Take only as prescribed by your physician.
- The medication should be taken with food to increase absorption and decrease side effects. Swallow capsules and tablets whole.
- Antacid or calcium products may be used, but should be spaced 2 hours apart from tipranavir.
- Alcohol is not recommended in the first 4 weeks of therapy and should be used with caution thereafter

What should I expect?

TIPRANAVIR:
- Common side effects may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, fatigue and headache. These effects may diminish during the first month of treatment. You may also experience dizziness, allergic skin rash or sensitivity to the sun. Contact your physician or pharmacist if any side effect occurs and remains persistent or is severe.
- Tipranavir may affect your liver and cause a change in liver function tests. Contact your physician if you experience persistent abdominal pain and/or have signs of jaundice (e.g. yellowing of the skin or eyes, pale stool etc).
- Tipranavir may cause an increase in your total cholesterol and/or triglyceride levels.
Rare (<0.2%) reports of bleeding in the brain have been noted in patients taking tipranavir. Patients who have medical conditions (e.g. hemophilia) or use medications (e.g. warfarin, Aspirin®, ibuprofen) that increase their risk of bleeding, may be at increased risk for this condition. Contact a doctor or go to the Emergency Department immediately, if you notice any unusual or unexplained bleeding or experience seizures, loss of consciousness, changes in vision, severe headaches, severe nausea and vomiting, confusion, inability to speak or swallow, difficulty moving any body part or difficulty breathing.

**Ritonavir:**
- Common side effects include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, anorexia, abdominal pain, taste disturbances and abnormal sensations in the hands, feet or in and around the mouth.
- Other effects may include headache, muscle weakness, fever, lightheadedness, insomnia and/or sweating

Redistribution or accumulation of body fat, blood fat changes and/or diabetes may occur in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Your doctor or pharmacist can provide you with further information on this topic.

**WARNING:**
Protease inhibitors not only interact with each other, but may alter the level of other medications. Always check with the pharmacist (1-888-511-6222) or your doctor before starting any new therapies (prescription, non-prescription and herbal) to ensure the safety of the combination. This is important, as in some cases the combination may result in serious and/or life-threatening complications.

Medications that may require dosage adjustment or alternative treatment, include: some anti-histamines, sedatives, anti-tuberculosis medications, some anti-fungal medications, narcotic analgesics, methadone, heart/blood-pressure medications, psychiatric medications, anti-convulsants, transplant/immunosuppressant medications, warfarin, cholesterol lowering agents, sildenafil (Viagra®), oral contraceptives (birth control pill), ergot containing migraine medications.

Avoid the following Herbal/Natural remedies: St. John's Wort, Milk Thistle, Garlic, as these may decrease levels of protease inhibitors.

**How do I store these?**
- Tipranavir capsules should be stored in the refrigerator (2–8 degrees C), but are stable at room temperature (15–30 degrees C) for sixty days. Keep tipranavir capsules away from excessive heat and protected from light.
- Ritonavir capsules should be stored in the refrigerator (2–8 degrees C), but are stable at room temperature (less than 25 degrees C) for thirty days. Keep ritonavir capsules away from excessive heat and protected from light.
- Ritonavir tablets and liquid should NOT be stored in the refrigerator. Store at room temperature in its original container, tightly sealed, away from excessive heat and protected from light.
- All medication should be stored out of the reach of children

**Labwork to be done:**
- CBC with differential, liver function tests and fasting glucose, cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglyceride levels, plasma viral load, CD4 count

January 2011