Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide) basics

Works with other medicines to treat HIV. Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide) is a first choice combination tablet that is used with other medications to treat HIV and is safe for your kidneys and bones.

What to expect when starting

Here’s when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

### Drug effectiveness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Long term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide)</td>
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### Possible side effects

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<th>Long term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bone fracture†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidney Damage†</td>
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† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Avoid taking NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) like aspirin, ibuprofen, and Aleve in order to prevent damage to kidneys.
- Tell your doctor right away if you have any signs of liver problems (jaundice, dark urine, yellowing of eyes, etc.) or allergic reactions (rash, fever, fatigue, difficulty breathing, etc.).
- Keep your regularly scheduled doctor and lab appointments. These help ensure your medication is working well and safely.
- Don’t stop taking Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide) without talking to your doctor first.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

- **Sudden worsening of Hepatitis B virus (HBV)**
  People who stopped taking medicines similar to Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide) may see severe worsening of Hepatitis B. Your doctor will do blood tests to check your liver regularly. Talk to your doctor right away if you notice any signs of liver problems, like jaundice, dark urine, and yellowing of eyes.

- **Lactic acidosis and enlarged, fatty liver**
  People who took a medicine similar to Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide) have had this rare but life-threatening condition. Symptoms include deep and rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. This is a medical emergency, and you should get help right away.

- **Kidney damage**
  People on Descovy (emtricitabine / tenofovir alafenamide) have reported kidney damage, which can be made worse if you take high doses of anti-inflammatory drugs called NSAIDs (Motrin/Advil, Aleve, Mobic, Voltaren, etc.). Call your doctor if you develop bone pain, pain in your arms or legs, or pain or weakness in your muscles.

This information relates to Descovy prescribed for HIV. This should not be taken as medical advice or guidance on your prescription, and is not a substitute for a health care provider’s judgment. Any decision about the treatment or the reliability of information is the sole responsibility of your health care provider.

For more information and to see what other people experienced, check out [Drug/Descovy](#).