raltegravir (ral-tegr-a-ver)

**Indications**
- HIV-1 infection (with other antiretrovirals) in treatment-experienced or treatment-naive patients.

**Action**
- Inhibits HIV-1 integrase, which is required for viral replication.

**Pharmacokinetics**
- **Absorption:** Well absorbed following oral administration.
- **Distribution:** Unknown.
- **Metabolism and Excretion:** Mostly metabolized by the uridine diphosphate glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) A1A enzyme system; 23% excreted in urine as parent drug and metabolite.
- **Half-life:** 9 hr.

**Interactions**
- **Drug-Drug:**
  - Concurrent use with strong inducers of the UGT A1A enzyme system including rifampin may p blood levels and effectiveness. Concurrent use with strong inhibitors of the UGT A1A enzyme system including atazanavir may q blood levels. 1 mg of ritonavir/75 mg of saquinavir/75 mg of darunavir may q blood levels.

**Route/Dosage**
- **PO (Adults):** 400 mg twice daily; q dose to 800 mg twice daily when used with rifampin.

**Contraindications/Precautions**
- **Contraindicated in:** Lactation: Breast feeding not recommended in HIV-infected patients.

**Adverse Reactions/Side Effects**
- **CNS:** SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, headache, depression, dizziness, fatigue, insomnia, weakness, CV: myocardial infarction, MI, arrhythmia, pancreatitis, nausea, vomiting, GU: renal failure, hyperkalemia. Hemat: anemia, neutropenia.

**Pharmacologic: integrase strand transfer inhibitors (INSTIs)**

**Pregnancy Category C**

**Classification**
- Therapeutic: antiretrovirals
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**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**

**Assessment**
- Assess patient for change in severity of HIV symptoms and for symptoms of opportunistic infections during therapy.
- Monitor for anxiety, depression (especially in patients with a history of psychiatric illness), suicidal ideation, and paranoia during therapy.
- Assure patient that rash is not associated with the drug. Monitor for signs and symptoms of rash or Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Discontinue if severe or if accompanied with fever, general malaise, fatigue, muscle or joint aches, blisters, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, hepatitis and/or eosinophilia.
- Lab Test Considerations: Monitor viral load and CD4 counts regularly during therapy.
- May cause ANC, hemoglobin, and platelet counts.
- May cause serum glucose, AST, ALT, GGT, total bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, pancreatic amylase, serum lipase, and creatinine kinase concentrations.

**Potential Nursing Diagnoses**
- Risk for infection (Indications)
- Noncompliance (Patient/Family Teaching)

**Implementation**
- Tablets are not interchangeable with chewable tablets or packets for oral suspension.
- PO: May be administered without regard to meals.
- Swallow tablets whole; do not break, crush, or chew.
- Chewable tablets may be chewed or swallowed.
- Pour packet for oral solution into 5 mL of water and mix. Once mixed, administer with syringe orally within 30 min of mixing. Discard unused solution.

**Patient/Family Teaching**
- Emphasize the importance of taking raltegravir as directed, at evenly spaced times throughout day. Do not take more than prescribed amount and do not stop taking without consulting health care professional. Take missed doses as soon as remembered unless almost time for next dose. Do not double doses. Advise patient to read Patient Information Sheet before starting therapy and with each prescription renewal in case changes have been made.
- Instruct patient that raltegravir should not be shared with others.
- Instruct patient to notify health care professional of all Rx or OTC medications, vitamins, or herbal products being taken and consult health care professional before taking any new medications.
- Inform patient that raltegravin does not cure AIDS or prevent associated opportunistic infections. Raltegravin does not reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Caution patient to use a condom during sexual contact and to avoid sharing needles or donating blood to prevent spreading the HIV virus to others. Advise patient that the long-term effects of raltegravin are unknown at this time.
- Advise patient to notify health care professional if they develop any unusual symptoms, if they have symptoms or signs of rhabdomyolysis (unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, weakness), rash or depression or suicidal thoughts occur.
- Inform patient that raltegravin may impair opportunistic infections or autoimmune disorders. Notify health care professional if symptoms occur.
- Advise patient to notify health care professional if pregnancy is planned or suspected. Breast feeding should be avoided during therapy.
- Emphasize the importance of regular follow-up exams and blood counts to determine progress and monitor for side effects.

**Evaluation/Desired Outcomes**
- Delayed progression of AIDS and decreased opportunistic infections in patients with HIV.
- Decrease in viral load and improvement in CD4 cell counts.

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?