

Intuniv (Guanfacine Extended-Release) – Patient Information Handout

What is Intuniv?

Intuniv is the brand name for guanfacine extended-release tablets. It is an FDA-approved medication used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents ages 6–17. It can be used alone or together with a stimulant medication. Intuniv works by acting on certain receptors in the brain to help improve attention, reduce hyperactivity, and decrease impulsivity.

How to Take Intuniv

- Take Intuniv once a day, at the same time each day (morning or evening).
 - Swallow the tablet whole with water, milk, or another liquid. Do NOT crush, chew, or break the tablet.
 - Do NOT take Intuniv with a high-fat meal (such as a cheeseburger, fries, or pizza), as this can increase the amount of medicine absorbed and raise the risk of side effects. A light meal or snack is fine.
 - If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take two doses at once.
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Important Safety Information

- **Do NOT stop taking Intuniv suddenly.** Stopping this medication abruptly can cause a dangerous rise in blood pressure (called "rebound hypertension"). If you need to stop Intuniv, your doctor will slowly lower the dose over time (reducing by no more than 1 mg every 3–7 days).
- If your child is vomiting and cannot keep the medication down for more than a day, contact your doctor right away, as missing doses can also lead to a rise in blood pressure.

Common Side Effects

The most common side effects include:

- Sleepiness or drowsiness (especially when first starting or increasing the dose)
- Headache
- Stomach pain
- Tiredness or fatigue
- Decreased appetite
- Dizziness
- Irritability
- Dry mouth
- Constipation
- Nausea
- Nightmares or unusual dreams
- Bedwetting

Most of these side effects tend to improve over time. Let your doctor know if any side effect is bothersome or does not go away.

Serious Side Effects — Call Your Doctor Right Away If You Notice:

- Fainting or feeling like you might faint
 - Very slow heartbeat
 - Feeling very dizzy or lightheaded, especially when standing up
 - Chest pain or irregular heartbeat
 - Significant mood changes
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Precautions While Taking Intuniv

- **Drowsiness:** Intuniv can cause significant drowsiness, especially early in treatment. Do not drive, ride a bike, or operate heavy machinery until you know how this medication affects you.
 - **Alcohol:** Avoid alcohol while taking Intuniv, as it can increase drowsiness.
 - **Dehydration and overheating:** Drink plenty of fluids and avoid getting overheated, as dehydration can increase the risk of dizziness and fainting.
 - **Other medications:** Tell your doctor about all medications, vitamins, and supplements you are taking. Some medications (especially antifungal drugs like ketoconazole or fluconazole, antibiotics like erythromycin, and seizure or HIV medications like rifampin or efavirenz) can change how Intuniv works and may require a dose adjustment.
 - **Other sedating medications:** If you take other medications that cause drowsiness (such as sleep aids, anxiety medications, or antihistamines), the drowsiness may be worse when combined with Intuniv.
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Storage

- Store at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.
 - Keep the bottle tightly closed and out of reach of children.
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When to Contact Your Doctor

- If side effects are bothersome or do not improve
 - If you or your child is unable to take the medication due to vomiting or illness
 - Before stopping or changing the dose of Intuniv
 - If you notice any new or worsening symptoms
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Remember: Never stop Intuniv on your own. Always talk to your doctor before making any changes to this medication.