

NNRTIs (Non-nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors)

NNRTIs are a class of medication designed to bind to reverse transcriptase to inhibit viral DNA elongation. These medications are often combined with other therapies to treat HIV, and are different from NRTIs because they don't require intracellular metabolism. Side effects of NNRTIs are hepatotoxicity, vivid dreams and CNS effects. These medications shouldn't be used in pregnant women.



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Indications

HIV

[AIDS bandaid](#)

These medications are used to treat HIV and AIDS.

Mechanism

Do Not Require Intracellular Metabolism

[Does Not Require Intracellular Metal-balls](#)

These medications are different from NRTIs, as they do not require intracellular metabolism, or phosphorylation "activation" to work against HIV.

Inhibits Reverse Transcriptase

[Inhibiting-chains on Reverse Train-script](#)

These drugs work by binding to reverse transcriptase (at a different site from NRTIs), preventing viral DNA from being transcribed.

Side Effects

Rash

[Rash](#)

Patients taking NNRTIs can often complain about developing rashes. This mainly occurs in female patients.

Hepatotoxicity

[Liver with Toxic-green-glow](#)

Hepatotoxicity is a common side effect of NNRTI drug therapy, and patients should have their liver function monitored.

Vivid Dreams and CNS Symptoms

[Vivid-colors Dream from CNS-brain](#)

Patients taking these medications have complained of vivid dreams and CNS symptoms (dizziness, confusion). The NNRTI medication efavirenz is known to cause these effects.

Contraindication

Pregnancy

Pregnant-woman with Caution-tape

NNRTI medications, most notably delavirdine and efavirenz are contraindicated in pregnancy, and can lead to teratogenic effects.