

# Abacavir

## Information about the drug and genetic variation

### What is abacavir?

- Abacavir is a drug used to treat HIV-1 by stopping virus replication. It can also be used to help prevent people who are exposed to HIV-1 through work, from contracting the virus.
- Abacavir blocks an enzyme involved in DNA replication by mimicking a nucleotide. This prevents the virus from making copies of itself.

### Genetic Variation

- The gene involved with the action of abacavir is HLA-B (human leukocyte antigen complex class B).
- HLA-B codes for a protein that allows recognition of the body's own cells. It helps the immune system recognize when there are pathogens to fight off.

### Drug-Gene Interaction

- People who are positive for the HLA-B\*57:01:01 subtype may have a hypersensitivity reaction when taking the medicine. They may have symptoms including fever, cough, rash, and fatigue. These will go away soon after stopping the medicine.

If you have any other questions please visit the websites listed below or talk to a healthcare professional.

- <http://drugsandgenes.com>
- [www.pharmgkb.org](http://www.pharmgkb.org)