

# DRUG Interactions with HIV MEDICATIONS

Ritonavir used to be given in higher amounts than it is now. (now it is mostly used to boost other HIV Meds). The old, higher dose dramatically raised levels of drugs in the body to dangerous amounts, particularly Ecstasy.

The newer, lesser doses can still do this, but less commonly so.

Though Ritonavir is the main “culprit”, all common protease inhibitors including Telzir, Atazanavir, Indinavir, Lopinavir, Nelfinavir, Saquinavir, Tipranavir can raise the levels of certain recreational drugs in the body.

- Drugs affected by Protease Inhibitors are, Crystal Meth, Speed, Ecstasy, MDMA, GHB/GBL, Steroids, Valium and Viagra.
- Cocaine, Cannabis, Ketamine and Poppers don't have any known interactions with Anti-HIV Medication.
- These interactions are at the most dangerous stage in the first 4 weeks of taking your meds, as your body is adjusting to the new medicine.
- It's a healthy and wise choice to avoid doing any recreational drugs at all during this first month

If you're concerned about these interactions..

you can talk to your doctor about these things INCLUDING your recreational drug use. You can also visit this website for more information.

[www.hiv-druginteractions.org](http://www.hiv-druginteractions.org)

try a smaller amount of a drug at first, and see how you feel.

- The liquid formulation of Fosamprenavir has a type of alcohol in it already; doctors recommend you avoid mixing the two.