

Aciclovir 200mg tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

- 1 What Aciclovir is and what it is used for**
- 2 What you need to know before you take Aciclovir tablets**
- 3 How to take Aciclovir tablets**
- 4 Possible side effects**
- 5 How to store Aciclovir tablets**
- 6 Contents of the pack and other information**

1 What Aciclovir is and what it is used for

Aciclovir belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals. It works by killing or stopping the growth of viruses.

Aciclovir tablets are used to:

- treat chickenpox and shingles
- treat cold sores, genital herpes and other herpes simplex infections
- stop these problems returning after you have had them
- stop these problems in people whose immune systems work less well, which means their bodies are less able to fight infections.

2 What you need to know before you take Aciclovir tablets

Do not take Aciclovir tablets:

- if you are allergic to aciclovir or valaciclovir or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in Section 6).

Do not take Aciclovir tablets if the above applies to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Aciclovir tablets.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Aciclovir tablets if:

- you have kidney problems
- you are over 65 years of age
- you have an impaired or weakened immune system.

If you are not sure if the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Aciclovir tablets. It is important that you drink plenty of water while taking Aciclovir tablets

Other medicines and Aciclovir tablets

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained without a prescription, including herbal medicines.

In particular tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- probenecid, used to treat gout
- cimetidine, used to treat stomach ulcers
- mycophenolate mofetil, used to stop your body rejecting transplanted organs.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Some side effects such as feeling drowsy or sleepy may impair your ability to concentrate and react. Make sure you are not affected before you drive or operate machinery.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3 How to take Aciclovir tablets

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Taking this medicine

It is important to start treatment as soon as possible.

Swallow the tablets **with water, with or without food**.

If you experience difficulty in swallowing the tablets they may be dispersed in a glass of water (**at least 50ml**) which should be stirred before drinking.

It is important that you drink plenty of water while taking Aciclovir tablets

The dose that you should take will depend on what you have been given Aciclovir tablets for. Your doctor will discuss this with you. An 800 mg tablet is also available.

Treatment of chickenpox and shingles

- The usual dose is 800 mg taken five times a day
- You should space each dose by 4 hours

- Suggested times are: 7am, 11am, 3pm, 7pm and 11pm
- You should take Acidovir tablets for seven days.

Treatment of cold sores and genital herpes

- The usual dose is one 200 mg tablet taken five times a day
- You should space each dose by 4 hours
- Suggested times are: 7am, 11am, 3pm, 7pm and 11pm
- You should take Acidovir tablets for five days, or longer if your doctor tells you to.

Stopping these problems returning after you have had them

- The usual dose is one 200 mg tablet taken four times a day
- You should try to space each dose by 6 hours
- You should take Acidovir tablets until your doctor tells you to stop.

Stopping these problems in people whose immune systems work less well and whose bodies are less able to fight infections

- The usual dose is one 200 mg tablet taken four times a day
- You should try to space each dose by 6 hours
- You should take Acidovir tablets until your doctor tells you to stop.

Your doctor may adjust the dose of Acidovir tablets if:

- it is for a child
- you are over 65 years of age
- you have kidney problems. If you have kidney problems, it is important to drink plenty of water while you are being treated with Acidovir tablets.

Talk to your doctor before taking Acidovir tablets if any of the above apply.

If you take more Acidovir tablets than you should

Acidovir tablets are not usually harmful, unless you take too many over several days. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you take too many Acidovir tablets. Take the medicine pack with you. Signs of an overdose include effects on the stomach and intestines such as feeling or being sick and effects on the nervous system such as confusion.

If you forget to take Acidovir tablets

- If you forget to take Acidovir tablets, take them as soon as you remember. However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose.
- **Do not take a double dose** to make up for a forgotten dose.

4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The following side effects may happen with this medicine:

Allergic reactions (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

If you have an allergic reaction, **stop taking Acidovir tablets and see a doctor straight away.** The signs may include:

- rash, itching or hives on your skin
- swelling of your face, lips, tongue or other parts of your body
- shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing
- collapse

Other side effects include:

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people): headache, feeling dizzy, feeling or being sick, diarrhoea, stomach pains, rash, skin reaction after exposure to light (photosensitivity), itching, feeling tired, unexplained fever (high temperature) and feeling faint, especially when standing up.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people): itchy, hive-like rash, hair loss.

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people): effects on some blood and urine tests, increases in the enzymes that work in the liver.

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people): reduced numbers of red blood cells (anaemia), reduced numbers of white blood cells (leukopenia), reduced numbers of blood platelets (cells that help blood to clot) (thrombocytopenia), feeling weak, feeling agitated or confused, shaking or tremors, hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that aren't there), fits, feeling unusually sleepy or drowsy, unsteadiness when walking and lack of coordination, difficulty speaking, inability to think or judge clearly, unconsciousness (coma), paralysis of part or all of your body, disturbances of behaviour, speech and eye movements, stiff neck and sensitivity to light, inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), yellowing of your skin and whites of your eyes (jaundice), kidney problems where you pass little or no urine, pain in your lower back, the kidney area of your back or just above your hip (renal pain).

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5 How to store Acidovir tablets

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Store below 25°C. Keep the blister in the outer carton to protect from light.

Do not use Acidovir tablets after the expiry date stated on the label, carton or bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6 Contents of the pack and other information

What Acidovir tablets contain

- The active substance (the ingredient that makes the tablets work) is acidovir PhEur. Each tablet contains 200mg of the active substance.
- The other ingredients are:
200mg tablets: colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, indigo carmine lake (E132), microcrystalline cellulose (E460).

What Acidovir tablets look like and contents of the pack

200mg Acidovir tablets are pale blue, circular, flat bevelled-edge, uncoated tablets impressed 'C' on one face and the identifying letters 'VH' on the reverse. Pack sizes are 25, 28, 30, 35, 56, 60 and 100. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder

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