

Zovirax[®] Tablets 200 mg aciclovir



Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- 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. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

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1 What Zovirax is and what it is used for

Zovirax Tablets 200 mg (called 'Zovirax' in this leaflet) contains a medicine called aciclovir. This belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals. It works by killing or stopping the growth of viruses.

Zovirax can be used to:

- treat chickenpox and shingles
- treat cold sores and genital herpes
- 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 Before you take Zovirax

Do not use Zovirax if:

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

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

Take special care with Zovirax

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Zovirax if:

- you have kidney problems
- you are over 65 years of age.

If you are not sure if the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Zovirax.

Taking other medicines

Please 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

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before using any medicine.

3 How to take Zovirax

Always take Zovirax exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Taking this medicine

- Take this medicine by mouth.
- Dissolve the tablet in a glass of water and stir before drinking.
- If you prefer, the tablet can also be swallowed whole with a little water. Start to take Zovirax as soon as possible.

The dose that you should take will depend on what you have been given Zovirax 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 Zovirax 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 Zovirax 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 Zovirax 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 Zovirax until your doctor tells you to stop.

Your doctor may adjust the dose of Zovirax 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 Zovirax.

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

If you take more Zovirax than you should

Zovirax is not usually harmful, unless you take too much over several days. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you take too much Zovirax. Take the medicine pack with you.

If you forget to take Zovirax

- If you forget to take Zovirax, take it 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, Zovirax can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The following side effects may happen with this medicine:

Allergic reactions (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)

If you have an allergic reaction, **stop taking Zovirax 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
- unexplained fever (high temperature) and feeling faint, especially when standing up.

Other side effects include:

Common (affects less than 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
- fever.

Uncommon (affects less than 1 in 100 people)

- itchy, hive-like rash
- hair loss.

Rare (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)

- difficulty breathing
- effects on some blood and urine tests
- swelling of your face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat.

Very rare (affects less than 1 in 10,000 people)

- nosebleeds and bruising more easily than usual
- 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).

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5 How to store Zovirax

- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Do not store above 30°C.
- Store in the original package.
- Do not use Zovirax after the expiry date which is stated on the carton. The expiry date (Exp.) 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. This will help protect the environment.

6 Further information

What Zovirax Tablets 200 mg contain

- The active substance is aciclovir.
- The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, aluminium magnesium silicate, sodium starch glycollate, povidone K30, magnesium stearate, purified water, industrial methylated spirit, ethanol, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 8000.

What Zovirax looks like and contents of the pack

Zovirax Tablets 200 mg are supplied to you in cartons containing 25 tablets in aluminium foil strips. They are white, round tablets marked "GXCF3" on one side.

Each 200 mg tablet contains 200 mg aciclovir.

Marketing authorisation holder and manufacturer

Marketing authorisation holder

GlaxoSmithKline UK, Stockley Park West, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB11 1BT

Manufacturer

GlaxoWellcome SA, Aranda de Duero, Burgos, Spain

Other formats:

To listen to or request a copy of this leaflet in Braille, large print or audio please call, free of charge:

0800 198 5000 (UK Only)

Please be ready to give the following information:

Product name **Zovirax Tablets 200 mg**

Reference number 00003/0344

This is a service provided by the Royal National Institute of Blind People.

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