

ZOVIRAX™ 800 mg Tablets (120 tablet pack) (*aciclovir*)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

The information provided in this leaflet applies to usage of the 120 tablet packs.

This leaflet answers some common questions about *Zovirax*. It does not contain all of the available information.

Reading this leaflet does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

Taking any medicine involves some risk. It is possible that all risks associated with this medicine might not have been detected, despite proper testing. Only your doctor or pharmacist is able to weigh up all of the relevant facts, and you should consult them if you have any queries.

If you have any concerns about taking Zovirax ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this information. You may want to read it again.

This leaflet provides information about *Zovirax*.

The statements that are made in this leaflet cannot be applied to any other medicine, even those that

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are similar or appear to contain the same ingredients.

What *Zovirax* is used for

Zovirax is used as part of the management program for certain infections in people who also have the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Zovirax does not cure AIDS or get rid of the HIV virus from your body, but it may prevent further damage to the immune system by stopping production of herpes viruses.

Your doctor may, however, have prescribed *Zovirax* for a different use to that described above.

If you have any questions about why you are taking *Zovirax* ask your doctor or pharmacist. Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to provide you with more information.

How does *Zovirax* work?

Aciclovir (the active ingredient in *Zovirax*) belongs to a group of medicines called “antivirals”.

Zovirax works by stopping the production of the

viruses that cause herpes and shingles.

Before you use *Zovirax*

Zovirax is not suitable for everyone. Be sure that your doctor knows about the following before you take *Zovirax*:

1. If you are allergic to:
 - Aciclovir (the active ingredient in *Zovirax*) or Valaciclovir;
 - Any other ingredient listed at the end of this leaflet.
2. If you are pregnant, or become pregnant while using *Zovirax*, or are breastfeeding.
3. If you suffer from:
 - A kidney or liver condition; or
 - A blood condition, or
 - Any condition affecting your brain
4. If you are taking any other medication such as probenecid (a treatment for gout) or diuretics (fluid tablets), including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy,

supermarket or health food shop.

Your doctor or pharmacist will have a complete list of the medicines that may cause problems when taken with *Zovirax*.

When you must not use *Zovirax*

Do not use *Zovirax* after the expiry date printed on the pack.

Do not use *Zovirax* if the packaging shows signs of tampering.

Do not use *Zovirax* to treat any other conditions unless advised by your doctor.

Do not give *Zovirax* to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Using *Zovirax*

Take *Zovirax* as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Never change the dosage yourself. Your doctor and pharmacist will be able to tell you:

- how many tablets to take as each dose;
- how many doses to take each day
- when to take each dose.

The label on the pack that the tablets were supplied in will give the same information. If there is something that you do not understand, ask either your doctor or pharmacist.

The usual dose of *Zovirax* in the management of HIV is one tablet four times daily. Your doctor may vary your *Zovirax* dosage if you

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also suffer from other medical conditions.

If you have any questions about the dose that you have been prescribed, you should ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How to take *Zovirax*

Your *Zovirax* tablets may be swallowed whole with a glass of water, or dispersed in a quarter of a glass of water (about 50 ml) and then swallowed.

If you forget to take your dose

If you have just missed your scheduled dose, take it as soon as you remember and continue as before.

If you have forgotten to take one dose of *Zovirax* and it is almost time to take your next scheduled dose, then skip the dose you have missed, and continue taking your *Zovirax* as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have forgotten to take more than one dose, contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you have missed.

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

In case of overdose

Immediately contact your doctor or Poisons

Information Centre for advice, or go to Casualty at your nearest hospital, if you think that you may have taken too much, or if anyone else has taken any *Zovirax*. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

When to stop taking *Zovirax*

Keep taking *Zovirax* for as long as your doctor recommends.

Do not stop taking *Zovirax* just because you feel better.

Your doctor will advise you when to stop taking *Zovirax*.

If you are unsure whether you should stop taking *Zovirax*, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

While you are using *Zovirax*

Drink plenty of plain fluids.

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to tell you whether there are any special instructions while you are taking *Zovirax*.

See your doctor if you feel that your condition is not improving or getting worse.

Side Effects

All medicines can have some side effects. Sometimes they are serious. Most of the time they are not.

In a few people, *Zovirax* may have some unwanted side effects. Make sure that your doctor or pharmacist knows as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking *Zovirax*. Often it is difficult to tell the difference between side effects of medication and symptoms of the underlying illness.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- Nausea, vomiting, headache.

Less common side effects include:

- Diarrhoea, dizziness, tiredness, fever, confusion, sleep disturbances;
- Weight loss, constipation, fluid retention, leg and joint pain, shakiness, hallucinations;
- Taste disturbances, sore throat, skin rash.

A small number of patients have had other unwanted effects after taking *ZOVIRAX*.

There is no evidence that *Zovirax* is addictive.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

After using *Zovirax*

If your doctor advises you to stop taking *Zovirax*, ask your pharmacist what to do with any remaining tablets.

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Storage

Keep your tablets in the pack that they were supplied in.

Keep *Zovirax* in a cool, dark and dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store *Zovirax* in the bathroom or near a sink.

Heat and dampness may affect *Zovirax*.

Keep *Zovirax*, and all other medicines, where children cannot reach them.

Do not leave *Zovirax* in the car on hot days.

Product Description

What *Zovirax* looks like

Zovirax tablets are white and elongated, marked “*Zovirax* 800” on one face and scored on the other. They are available in packs of 35 tablets or 120 tablets. This CMI refers to the 120’s tablet pack.

Ingredients

Zovirax contains 800mg of the active ingredient aciclovir.

Zovirax also contains: cellulose-microcrystalline, povidone, sodium starch glycollate, aluminium magnesium silicate, magnesium stearate, macrogol 8000, and coating opadry Y-1-7000 concentrate.

Manufacturer

Zovirax tablets are supplied in Australia by:
GlaxoSmithKline Australia Ptd Ltd
1061 Mountain Highway
BORONIA VIC 3155

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