

ZOVIRAX[®] SUSPENSION 200MG/5ML

Acyclovir (200 mg/5 ml)

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What ZOVIRAX is used for

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.

How ZOVIRAX works

Zovirax Suspension contains a medicine called acyclovir. This belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals. It works by killing or stopping the growth of viruses.

Before you use ZOVIRAX

- When you must not use it

Do not use Zovirax if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to acyclovir or valaciclovir or any of the other ingredients.

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

- Before you start to use it

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.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

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

- 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.

How to use ZOVIRAX

- How much to use

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.
- Use the spoon provided to carefully measure the dose needed.
- 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.

The dose given to you maybe different from recommendation in this leaflet.

Treatment of chickenpox and shingles

- The usual dose is four 5 ml spoonfuls 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 5 ml spoonful 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.

Suppressing cold sores and genital herpes returning after you have had them

- The usual dose is one 5 ml spoonful 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.

Suppressing cold sores and genital herpes in people whose immune systems work less well and whose bodies are less able to fight infections

- The usual dose is one 5 ml spoonful 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.

- When to use it

Use as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

- How long to use it

Continue taking Zovirax for as long as your doctor recommends.

- If you forget to use it

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.

- If you use too much (overdose)

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.

While you are using it

- Things you must do

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking your medicine and take it as prescribed by your doctor.

- Things you must not do

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.

- Things to be careful of

It is important that you drink plenty of water while taking Zovirax.

Side Effects

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

- skin rash
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- abdominal pains
- headache
- feeling dizzy
- confusion
- hallucinations
- feeling tired
- convulsions
- hair loss
- increase in liver enzymes
- effects on some blood and urine tests

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.

You may report any side effects or adverse drug reactions directly to the National Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring by calling Tel: 03-78835550, or visiting the website portal.bpfk.gov.my (Consumers → Reporting)

Storage and Disposal of ZOVIRAX

- Storage

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Store below 25°C.

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.

- Disposal

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.

Product Description

- What it looks like

Zovirax Suspension 200mg/5ml is a white, banana flavoured, oral suspension. Packed in amber bottle of 125ml.

- Ingredients

- Active ingredient(s)
200mg acyclovir in each 5ml

- Inactive ingredient(s)
Methyl parahydroxybenzoate, banana flavour, glycerol, purified water, vanillin, propyl parahydroxybenzoate, 70% sorbitol solution, dispersible cellulose.

- MAL number

MAL19880350ACZ

Manufacturer

Aspen Bad Oldesloe GMBH
Industriestrasse 32 – 36,
23843, Bad Oldesloe,
Germany

Product Registration Holder

GlaxoSmithKline
Pharmaceutical Sdn. Bhd.
Level 6, Quill 9,
112 Jalan Semangat,

46300 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia

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