

Aciclovir GH

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) Summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using Aciclovir GH?

Aciclovir GH contains the active ingredient aciclovir.

The 200mg strength is used to:

- treat genital herpes. It makes an outbreak of genital herpes shorter and less severe
- prevent or reduce the number of outbreaks and/or severity of genital herpes in people who experience them often.

The 800 mg strength is used:

- to treat shingles, also known as herpes zoster. Shingles is caused by the same virus which causes chicken pox. It usually involves nerve pain and a blistering rash, limited to one area of the body. If taken within 72 hours of first getting the rash, aciclovir makes an outbreak of shingles shorter and less severe;
- as part of the management program for certain infections in people who have the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Aciclovir 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 the herpes viruses.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Aciclovir GH?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use Aciclovir GH?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to aciclovir or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use Aciclovir GH?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Aciclovir GH and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use Aciclovir GH?

Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine you should take. This will depend on your condition and whether you are taking any other medicines. More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use Aciclovir GH?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using Aciclovir GH?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Acyclovir GH.• Make sure you stay well hydrated whilst taking this medicine.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop using this medicine or change your dosage without first checking with your doctor.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how this medicine affects you.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep your tablets in the pack until it is time to take them.• Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Protect from light and moisture.• Keep it where children cannot reach it.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using Aciclovir GH?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Some of the serious side effects include:

- symptoms of an allergic reaction such as shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin; fainting or hay fever-like symptoms
- confusion
- depression, agitation, irritability
- unusual thoughts or actions, hallucinations (seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there)
- shakiness/trembling
- difficulty speaking i.e unsteady walking
- uncoordinated movements, i.e. unsteady walking
- fever, sore throat, swollen glands
- blood problems (e.g. feeling tired and weak, fever, frequent infections, unusual bruising or bleeding or swelling around wounds)
- fluid retention
- eye problems (inflamed eye)
- yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice) or other symptoms indicating liver problems such as: mental confusion, drowsiness, restlessness, itching and unconsciousness
- kidney problems e.g. too much or too little urine, or pain when urinating, or pain in the kidneys
- troubled breathing
- chest pain, fast heart beat (palpitations)
- convulsion (fits)
- losing consciousness or in a coma
- signs of a blood clot such as a swollen and painful area in your leg and swelling in your foot or ankle.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

Aciclovir GH

Active ingredient(s): Aciclovir

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Aciclovir GH. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Aciclovir GH.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using Aciclovir GH?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use Aciclovir GH?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use Aciclovir GH?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using Aciclovir GH?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using Aciclovir GH?

Aciclovir GH contains the active ingredient acyclovir.

Aciclovir belongs to a group of medicines called anti-virals. It works by stopping the production of the virus that causes herpes and shingles. It does not get rid of the virus from your body.

The 200 mg strength is used to:

- **treat genital herpes. It makes an outbreak of genital herpes shorter and less severe**
- **prevent or reduce the number of outbreaks and/or severity of genital herpes in people who experience them often.**

The 800 mg strength is used:

- **to treat shingles, also known as herpes zoster. Shingles is caused by the same virus which causes chicken pox. It usually involves nerve pain and a blistery rash, limited to one area of the body. If taken within 72 hours of first getting the rash, aciclovir makes an outbreak of shingles shorter and less severe;**
- **as part of the management program for certain infections in people who have the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Aciclovir 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 the herpes viruses.**

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.

2. What should I know before I use Aciclovir GH?

Warnings

Do not use Aciclovir GH if:

- you are allergic to aciclovir, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- fainting or hay fever-like symptoms.

If you think you are having an allergic reaction, do not take any more of the medicine and contact your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department at the nearest hospital

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you have:

- kidney or liver problems
- neurological disorders such as muscle weakness, paralysis, seizures, confusion, etc
- an imbalance of electrolytes (salts) in your body
- severe lack of oxygen from any part of your body
- neurological reactions from a cytotoxic (anti-cancer) medicine.
- have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Medicines like Aciclovir GH may affect the developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking this medicine.

3. WHAT IF I AM TAKING OTHER MEDICINES?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with this medicine and affect how it work. These include:

- probenecid, a medicine commonly used to treat gout
- cimetidine, used for stomach problems
- diuretics, also called fluid tablets
- interferon, used to treat multiple sclerosis, hepatitis, leukaemia, Hodgkin's lymphoma and other diseases
- methotrexate given by injection into the spine to treat cancer and leukaemia
- mycophenolate mofetil, used by people with organ transplants.

These medicines may be affected by this medicine or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Other medicines not listed above may also interact with acyclovir.

4. HOW DO I TAKE ACICLOVIR GH

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the box, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine you should take. This will depend on your condition and whether you are taking any other medicines.

The doses below may be lower if you are elderly or have kidney problems.

Treatment for Shingles

The normal dose is to take 800 mg five times a day approximately every 4 hours throughout the day while awake, for 7 days.

Either take your tablets at 7 am, 11 am, 3 pm, 7 pm and 11 pm or note down the times that suit your daily schedule.

Management of advanced HIV

The dose is 800 mg four times a day every 6 hours, for as long as your doctor tells you.

Treatment of Initial genital herpes

The usual dose is one 200 mg tablet every four hours, while awake, for a total of five tablets daily for ten days.

Intermittent therapy for recurrent genital herpes

One 200 mg tablet every four hours, while awake, for a total of five tablets daily for five days. Therapy should be initiated at the earliest sign or symptom (prodrome) of recurrence.

Chronic suppressive therapy for recurrent genital herpes

One 200 mg tablet three times a day for up to 6 months. For most people, one 200 mg tablet twice a day gives satisfactory results.

When to take this medicine

Take your medicine at about the same time each day. Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it. It does not matter if you take this medicine before or after food. Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you. Make sure you have enough to last over weekends and holidays.

How to take this medicine

Aciclovir GH tablets may be dispersed in a glass of water prior to being taken or alternatively swallow the tablets whole with a glass of water. You should drink plenty of fluids.

If you forget to take this medicine

If you miss your dose at the usual time:

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

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

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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

If you use too much of this medicine

If you think that you have used too much of this medicine, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 13 11 26), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

If you take too much of this medicine, you may feel or be sick, have a headache and/or feel confused.

5. WHAT SHOULD I KNOW WHILE USING ACICLOVIR GH

Things you should do

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using this medicine.

If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine.

It may interfere with the results of some tests.

Make sure you stay well hydrated whilst taking this medicine.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may occasionally do tests on your blood or urine to check for side effects and see how your kidneys are working. Go to your doctor regularly for a check-up.

Things you should not do

- Do not take this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.
- Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.
- Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.
- Do not stop taking your medicine or change your dosage without first checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

Genital herpes and HIV can be transmitted to your partner during sexual activity. It is important to remember that this medicine will not keep you from transmitting herpes or HIV to others.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how this medicine affects you.

This medicine may cause dizziness, tiredness, or drowsiness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Looking after your medicine

Keep your tablets in the pack until it is time to take them.

If you take the tablets out of the pack, they may not keep well.

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stomach problems such as nausea (feeling sick), vomiting (being sick), diarrhoea, constipation, stomach pain • changes in taste sensation, loss of appetite, weight loss • dizziness/giddiness or headache • difficulty sleeping • increased hair loss • weakness, fatigue, lack of energy, tiredness • aching, leg pains, muscles pains, joint pain, muscle cramps • menstrual problems. 	<p>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</p>

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>The following list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confusion • depression, agitation, irritability • unusual thoughts or actions, hallucinations (seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there) • shakiness/trembling • difficulty speaking • uncoordinated movements, i.e. unsteady walking • fever, sore throat, swollen glands • blood problems (e.g. feeling tired and weak, fever, frequent infections, unusual bruising or bleeding or swelling around wounds) • fluid retention • eye problems (inflamed eye). <p>The following list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice) or other symptoms indicating liver problems such as: mental confusion, drowsiness, restlessness, itching and unconsciousness • kidney problems e.g. too much or too little urine, or pain when urinating, or pain in the kidneys • troubled breathing • chest pain, fast heart beat (palpitations) • convulsion (fits) • losing consciousness or in a coma 	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signs of a blood clot such as a swollen and painful area in your leg and swelling in your foot or ankle. 	

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. PRODUCT DETAILS

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What Aciclovir GH contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	Aciclovir 200mg, 400mg or 800mg
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • microcrystalline cellulose; • sodium starch glycollate; • pregelatinised maize starch; • colloidal anhydrous silica; • magnesium stearate

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What Aciclovir GH looks like

Aciclovir GH 200 mg: Capsule shaped, biconvex, white to off-white tablets debossed "200" on one side and "ACV" on the other side. (AUST R 183860)

Aciclovir GH 400 mg: Capsule shaped, biconvex, white to off-white tablets debossed "400" on one side and "ACV" on the other side. (AUST R 183861)

Aciclovir GH 800 mg: Capsule shaped, biconvex, white to off-white tablets debossed "800" on one side and "ACV" on the other side. (AUST R 182862)

Who distributes Aciclovir GH

Generic Health Pty Ltd

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