

Aciclovir Sandoz®

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 Sandoz?

Aciclovir Sandoz contains the active ingredient aciclovir. Aciclovir Sandoz is used to treat genital herpes; prevent or reduce the number of outbreaks and/or severity of genital herpes in people who experience them often; treat shingles (herpes zoster) and used as part of the management program for certain infections in people who have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Aciclovir Sandoz?](#) in the full CMI.

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

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to aciclovir, valaciclovir or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI. **Talk to your doctor 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 Sandoz?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Aciclovir Sandoz 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 Sandoz?

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 Sandoz?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using Aciclovir Sandoz?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Aciclovir Sandoz.• Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking Aciclovir Sandoz.• Make sure you stay well hydrated whilst taking this medicine.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop taking your 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.

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

6. Are there any side effects?

Common side effects: nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain, headache, dizziness, confusion, hallucinations, fatigue, skin reaction after sunlight exposure, fever.

Severe side effects:

symptoms of an allergic reaction (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), depression, agitation, irritability, unusual thoughts or actions, shakiness/trembling, 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), kidney problems e.g. too much or too little urine, or pain when urinating, or pain in the kidneys, chest pain, fast heart beat (palpitations), convulsion (fits)

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 Sandoz®

Active ingredient: *aciclovir*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Aciclovir Sandoz. **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 Sandoz.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

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

1. Why am I using Aciclovir Sandoz?

Aciclovir Sandoz contains the active ingredient aciclovir. Aciclovir Sandoz 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.

Aciclovir Sandoz is used for the treatment of 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.

Aciclovir Sandoz is also used for the treatment of shingles (herpes zoster). Shingles is caused by the same virus that 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;

Aciclovir Sandoz is also used 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.

This medicine should not be used in children.

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

Warnings

Do not use Aciclovir Sandoz if:

- you are allergic to aciclovir, valaciclovir, 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.
- it is after the expiry date printed on the pack
- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Check with your doctor if you have or have had:

- kidney or liver problems
- a blood condition, such as anaemia (a decreased red blood cell count) or neutropenia (lack of white blood cells)
- 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?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

It may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.

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

The active ingredient in Aciclovir Sandoz passes into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby may be affected.

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 Aciclovir Sandoz and affect how it works. 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 aciclovir.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect Aciclovir Sandoz.

4. How do I use Aciclovir Sandoz?

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.

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.

Recurrent genital herpes

The usual dose is one 200 mg tablet three times a day for up to six months.

Or

One 200 mg tablet every four hours, while awake, for a total of five tablets daily for five days.

Shingles

The usual dose is one 800 mg tablet every four hours, while awake, for a total of five tablets daily for seven days (or up to ten days if your eyes are affected by shingles).

Management of HIV

The usual dose is one 800 mg tablet four times a day at six hourly intervals.

When to take Aciclovir Sandoz

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 Aciclovir Sandoz

If you need to break Aciclovir Sandoz, hold tablet with both hands and snap along break line.

If you forget to use Aciclovir Sandoz

Aciclovir Sandoz should be used regularly at the same time each day. 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 Aciclovir Sandoz

If you think that you have used too much Aciclovir Sandoz, 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 Sandoz?

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 Aciclovir Sandoz 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 below 25°C; 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 you no longer need to use 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
<p>Gastro-intestinal related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• nausea (feeling sick)• vomiting (being sick)• diarrhoea• constipation• stomach pain <p>General Disorders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dizziness/giddiness• headache• difficulty sleeping• weakness• fatigue, lack of energy, tiredness• fever <p>Musculoskeletal related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• aching, leg pains• muscles pains• joint pain• muscle cramps <p>Skin related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increased hair loss• skin reaction after sunlight exposure <p>Others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• changes in taste sensation• loss of appetite• weight loss• 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>Brain related:</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 <p>General Disorders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fever • sore throat • swollen glands <p>Blood related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling tired and weak • fever • frequent infections • unusual bruising or bleeding • swelling around wounds <p>Renal and urinary related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fluid retention <p>Eye related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eye problems (inflamed eye). 	<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>
<p>Liver related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice) • mental confusion, drowsiness, restlessness, itching and unconsciousness <p>Kidney related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • too much or too little urine • pain when urinating • pain in the kidneys <p>Heart related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • troubled breathing • chest pain, fast heart beat (palpitations) <p>Brain related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • convulsion (fits) • losing consciousness or in a coma <p>Blood related:</p> <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. 	<p>These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.</p>

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 Sandoz contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	aciclovir (200 mg or 800 mg)
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	lactose microcrystalline cellulose sodium starch glycollate (type A) copovidone magnesium stearate
Potential allergens	lactose

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

What Aciclovir Sandoz looks like

Aciclovir Sandoz is available in two strengths.

Aciclovir Sandoz 200 mg – white, round tablets with a break score on one side. They are available in blister packs of 25 or 90 tablets (AUST R 99420).

Aciclovir Sandoz 800 mg – white, biconvex oblong tablets with break scores on both sides. They are available in blister packs of 35 tablets (AUST R 99421).

Who distributes Aciclovir Sandoz

Sandoz Pty Ltd
100 Pacific Highway
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Australia
Tel 1800 726 369

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