

NEW ZEALAND CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300

Lamivudine and Zidovudine Film Coated Tablets

150mg + 300mg



What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 tablets.

This leaflet answers some common questions about LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 tablets.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 is used for

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 is used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines, to slow down the progression of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection. HIV can lead to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and other related illnesses.

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 tablets contain two active ingredients, lamivudine and zidovudine, which belong to a group of medicines called antiretrovirals. LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 does not cure or prevent AIDS or HIV infection, but hinders the growth of human immunodeficiency virus. In this way it stops on going damage to the body's immune system, which fights infection.

While taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 and/or any other therapy for HIV, you may continue to develop other infections and other complications of HIV infection. You should keep in regular contact with your doctor.

The long-term risks and benefits of taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 are not known.

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 is available only with a doctor's prescription.

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 tablets are not recommended for use in children under 12 years of age.

Before you take LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300

When you must not take it

Do not take LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing lamivudine
- any medicine containing zidovudine
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

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.

Do not take this medicine if you have:

- very low white blood cell count (neutropenia)
- very low blood cell count (anaemia) or reduced haemoglobin levels.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about these.

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant unless your doctor says you should.

Your doctor should discuss with you the risks and benefits of taking these tablets if you are pregnant.

Breastfeeding is not recommended while you are taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 because:

- lamivudine and zidovudine medicines enter the breast milk and there is a possibility your baby may be affected
- it is recommended that HIV infected women do not breastfeed their infants, to

avoid risking potential passing of HIV infection to the infant.

Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about pregnancy or breastfeeding.

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 have certain health conditions, your doctor may advise that you take a lower dose of lamivudine and/or zidovudine, the two active ingredients in LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 tablets. These medicines are also available separately.

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

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- liver disease, including hepatitis B or C
- kidney disease.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300.

If you have a long-standing viral infection of your liver (hepatitis B) it may flare up. This can cause serious illness particularly if your liver is already not working very well. If you have both HIV and hepatitis B, when you stop taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300, your doctor is likely to arrange tests from time to time to check how well your liver is working and to measure virus levels.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines and LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 may interfere with each other. These include:

- co-trimoxazole or trimethoprim antibiotics
- clarithromycin antibiotic
- some medicines used to treat HIV such as emtricitabine and stavudine
- fluconazole, flucytosine or amphotericin, medicines used for fungal infections
- sodium valproate or phenytoin, medicines used for epilepsy
- cladribine, a medicine used to treat hairy cell leukaemia
- probenecid, a medicine used for gout and other similar conditions
- ribavirin or ganciclovir, antiviral medicines
- rifampicin, a medicine used for tuberculosis
- some medicines for chemotherapy like vincristine, vinblastine and doxorubicin
- interferon, a protein used to treat viral infections
- dapsone, a medicine used to prevent pneumonia and treat skin infections
- pentamidine, pyrimethamine or atovaquone, medicines used to treat infections such as Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (often referred to as PCP)
- methadone, a medicine used for pain or opioid dependence
- medicines (usually liquids) containing sorbitol or other sugar alcohols such as xylitol, mannitol, lactitol or maltitol.

These medicines may be affected by LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE

VIATRIS 150/300 or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

How to take LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300

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 label, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

The usual dosage of LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 is one tablet twice daily.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water.

If you cannot swallow the tablets whole, you may crush and combine them with a small amount of food or drink, and take all the dose immediately.

When to take it

It does not matter if you take this medicine before or after food.

Take your medicine at about the same time(s) each day.

Taking it at the same time(s) each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

When you are taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 twice daily, try to

take it in the morning and at night, approximately every 12 hours.

If you need to take clarithromycin antibiotic, take it at least 2 hours before or 2 hours after your dose of LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300.

Clarithromycin can reduce the absorption of zidovudine.

How long to take it

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

Because this medicine helps to control your condition, but does not cure it, take the tablets every day, as prescribed by your doctor.

If you forget to take it

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 that 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.

While you are taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300.

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine. It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

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.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked. Your doctor may do some tests such as blood tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Things you must not do

Do not take LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 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 change the dosage without checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 affects you. Like many medicines, this medicine may cause headaches and dizziness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

In case of overdose

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. Take the medicine bottle with you if you can. You may need urgent medical attention.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300.

It may be difficult to tell whether side effects are the result of taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300, effects of the HIV disease, or side effects of other medicines you may be taking. For this reason, it is very important for you to inform your doctor of any change in your condition. Your doctor may need to change your dose or advise you to stop taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300.

Like all medicines, this medicine may have unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

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

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

Some side effects can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check

your progress. These may include:

- reduced red blood cell count (anaemia)
- reduced white blood cell count (neutropenia or leukopenia)
- changes in liver function tests
- increased blood sugar
- increased blood lipid levels.

The frequency and severity of anaemia and neutropenia are greater in patients with advanced HIV disease, or in patients who start taking this medicine in later stages of HIV disease.

While you are taking this medicine, it is very important that your doctor keeps a close check on your health and takes blood samples to monitor levels of red and white blood cells as these are two of the most serious side effects.

If you develop anaemia or neutropenia, your doctor may reduce or stop the dose of your medicine, or recommend standard treatment for these conditions. Ask your doctor any questions you may have.

It is not known whether many of the side effects are due to taking the LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300, or due to the medicine being taken with other medicines. Some of the symptoms may result as a part of HIV infection, AIDS, or AIDS related complex.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- nausea or vomiting
- abdominal pain or cramps
- diarrhoea
- headache
- muscle or joint pain
- fatigue
- hair loss
- fever
- cough
- insomnia.

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- generalised weakness
- muscle weakness or paralysis (reduced ability to move the muscles)
- change in appetite or unexplained weight loss
- indigestion, taste disturbance
- tiredness, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale (possible symptoms of anaemia or reduced red blood cell count)
- chest pain
- tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- convulsions
- drowsiness
- anxiety or depression, confusion, loss of mental clarity
- signs of infection such as fever, chills, and/or influenza-like symptoms
- changes in the colour of your nails, skin or the skin inside your mouth
- increased frequency of passing urine.

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are generally uncommon. Some side effects can occur many months after you start to take LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- 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
- severe stomach pain, nausea or vomiting.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

If you are taking medicines for HIV and become very sick, with fast and difficult breathing, stop taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 and consult your doctor immediately. You may have 'lactic acidosis', a condition which results in high acid levels in the blood. Your liver may not be working properly and this condition can be life threatening. This illness occurs more often in obese (very overweight) people, especially women. People who also have hepatitis C and are treated with alpha interferon and ribavirin may also be at increased risk.

See your doctor if you feel generally unwell with loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, itching, yellowness of the skin or eyes, dark coloured urine, pale stools, or if the blood tests of your liver function are abnormal. It is likely you will have to stop taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 tablets.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

After taking LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300

Storage

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

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

Keep your tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Heat and damp conditions can destroy some medicines. Do not store LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE VIATRIS 150/300 or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a

sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

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

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE
VIATRIS 150/300 tablets are white to off-white capsule-shaped, film coated tablets.

The tablets are marked with 'M' on the left of the score-line and '103' on the right on one side of the tablet, and scored on the other side. The tablets may be halved.

The tablets are supplied in bottles of 60 tablets.

Ingredients

Active ingredients:

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE
VIATRIS 150/300 tablets contain 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine as the active ingredients.

Inactive ingredients:

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE
VIATRIS 150/300 tablets also contains:

- microcrystalline cellulose
- sodium starch glycollate
- colloidal silicon dioxide
- magnesium stearate
- hypromellose
- propylene glycol
- titanium dioxide.

If you want to know more

Should you have any questions regarding this product, please contact your pharmacist or doctor.

Who supplies this medicine

LAMIVUDINE/ZIDOVUDINE
VIATRIS 150/300 is supplied in New Zealand by:

Viatrix Ltd,
PO Box 11-183,
Ellerslie,
Auckland.
www.viatrix.co.nz
Telephone 0800 168 169

Date of Preparation

17 April 2024
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