

ZOVIRAX™ Dispersible Tablets

Aciclovir 200mg

Consumer Medicine Information

Please read all of the leaflet carefully before you take your medicine

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Zovirax 200mg. 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 200mg ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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

This leaflet provides information about Zovirax 200mg. The statements that are made in this leaflet cannot be applied to any other medicine, even those that are similar or appear to contain the same ingredients.

What Zovirax 200mg is used for

Zovirax 200mg is used for the treatment and management of genital herpes.

How does Zovirax 200mg work?

Aciclovir (the active ingredient in Zovirax 200mg) belongs to a group of medicines called "anti-virals". Zovirax 200mg works by stopping the production of the herpes virus. This reduces the length and severity of an outbreak of herpes. Zovirax 200mg can also be taken long term to reduce the number of herpes outbreaks in people who experience this condition often. Zovirax 200mg does not get rid of the virus from your body. Your doctor may, however, have prescribed Zovirax 200mg for a different use to that described above.

If you have any questions about why you are taking Zovirax 200mg ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to provide you with more information.

Before you use Zovirax 200mg

Zovirax 200mg is not suitable for everyone.

Be sure that your doctor knows about the following before you take Zovirax 200mg:

1. If you are allergic to:
 - Aciclovir (the active ingredient in Zovirax 200mg).
 - Any other ingredient listed at the end of this leaflet.
2. If you are pregnant, or become pregnant while using Zovirax 200mg, 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

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 200mg.

When you must NOT use Zovirax 200mg

- Do not use Zovirax 200mg after the expiry date printed on the pack.
- Do not use Zovirax 200mg if the packaging shows signs of tampering
- Do not use Zovirax 200mg to treat any other conditions unless advised by your doctor.
- Do not give Zovirax 200mg to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Using Zovirax 200mg

Take Zovirax 200mg as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Never change the dose yourself.

Your doctor and pharmacist will be able to tell you:

- how many tablets to take at each dose.
- how many doses to take each day.
- when to take each of your doses.

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 200mg in the treatment of an outbreak of herpes is **one 200 mg tablet every four hours** while awake (a total of five tablets daily) for five or ten days. This dose may be varied by your doctor depending on the response. Your doctor may also vary the Zovirax 200mg dosage for other medical reasons.

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

How to take Zovirax 200mg

Your Zovirax 200mg 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 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 200mg and it is almost time to take your next scheduled dose, then skip the dose you have missed, and continue taking your Zovirax 200mg 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.

In case of overdose

Immediately contact your doctor or Poisons Information Centre for advice (03 474 7000) or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital, if you think that you may have taken too much, or if anyone else has taken any Zovirax 200mg. 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 Zovirax 200mg taking

Do not stop taking Zovirax 200mg just because you feel better.

It is important that you complete your course of tablets to effectively treat an outbreak of herpes, or to reduce further outbreaks if you are taking Zovirax 200mg long term.

Your doctor will advise you when to stop taking Zovirax 200mg.

If you are unsure whether you should stop taking Zovirax 200mg talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

While you are using Zovirax 200mg

Drink plenty of fluids.

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to tell you whether there are any special instructions while you are taking Zovirax 200mg.

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.

Zovirax 200mg helps most people with genital herpes. In a few people it may have some unwanted side effects.

Be sure that your doctor or pharmacist knows as soon as possible if you do not feel well

while you are taking Zovirax 200mg.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- Abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- Headache, dizziness, tiredness, confusion, sleep disturbances
- Fluid retention, leg and joint pain, shakiness
- Hallucinations, skin rash, hives, itchiness.
- Sensitivity to light
- Hair loss, liver and kidney problems
- Tiredness, weakness, bruising easily.

If you think you are having an allergic (hypersensitivity) reaction to Zovirax 200mg, **TELL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.** Symptoms include:

- Severe skin rash, itching or hives
- Swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat
- Difficulty breathing and swallowing
- Fever
- Low blood pressure (feeling tired and weak)

This is not a complete list of side effects. A small number of patients have had other unwanted effects after taking Zovirax 200mg.

There is no evidence that Zovirax 200mg is addictive.

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

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side-effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using Zovirax 200mg

If your doctor advises you to stop taking Zovirax 200mg ask your pharmacist what to do with any remaining tablets.

Storage

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

Keep Zovirax 200mg in a cool, dark and dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store Zovirax 200mg in the bathroom or near a sink.

Heat and dampness may affect Zovirax 200mg.

Keep Zovirax 200mg, and all other medicines, where children cannot reach them.

Do not leave Zovirax 200mg in the car on hot days.

Product description

What Zovirax 200mg looks like

Zovirax 200mg tablets are white, biconvex, round, film-coated tablets branded GXCF3 on one face and plain on the other. They are available in packs of 25 tablets.

Ingredients

Zovirax 200mg contains 200 mg of the active ingredient aciclovir.

Zovirax 200mg also contains:
Cellulose-microcrystalline,
povidone, sodium starch glycollate,
aluminium magnesium silicate,
magnesium stearate, macrogol
8000, and Colour Concentrate Y-1-
7000, White.

Manufacturer

Zovirax 200mg tablets are supplied by:
Glaxo Wellcome New Zealand
Limited
Quay Tower

Cnr Albert and Customs St.
Private Bag 106600
Downtown Auckland
New Zealand

Ph: (09) 367 2900
Fax (09) 367 2910

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