

# DATA SHEET

## ZOVIRAX™ Ophthalmic Ointment.

*Aciclovir 3% w/w ophthalmic ointment*

---

### Presentation

---

A near-white translucent eye ointment containing 3%w/w aciclovir in a sterile, anhydrous, soft paraffin base.

#### ***Nature and Contents of Container:***

Tube with nozzle and screw cap: 4.5g.

---

### Uses

---

#### ***Actions:***

Aciclovir is an antiviral agent which is highly active *in vitro* against Herpes simplex (HSV) types I and II and Varicella zoster viruses, but its toxicity to mammalian cells is low.

Aciclovir is phosphorylated to the active compound aciclovir triphosphate after entry into a herpes infected cell. The first step in this process requires the presence of the viral-coded thymidine kinase. Aciclovir triphosphate acts as an inhibitor of and substrate for the herpes specified DNA polymerase preventing further viral DNA synthesis without affecting normal cellular processes.

#### ***Pharmacokinetics:***

Aciclovir is rapidly absorbed from the ophthalmic ointment through the corneal epithelium and superficial ocular tissues with the result that viral toxic concentrations are achieved in the aqueous humor. It has not been possible to detect aciclovir in the blood by existing methods after topical application of ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment, but trace quantities are detectable in the urine. These levels, however, are not therapeutically significant.

#### ***Indications:***

ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment is indicated for the treatment of Herpes simplex keratitis.

---

### Dosage and Administration

---

The dosage for all age groups is the same.

A 10mm ribbon of the ointment should be placed inside the lower conjunctival sac five times a day at approximately four hourly intervals.

Treatment should continue for at least 3 days after healing.

---

## **Contraindications**

---

ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment is contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to aciclovir or valaciclovir.

---

## **Warnings and Precautions**

---

Patients should be informed that transient mild stinging immediately following application may occur.

Patients should avoid wearing contact lenses when using ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment.

### ***Pregnancy and Lactation:***

A post-marketing aciclovir pregnancy registry has documented pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to any formulation of ZOVIRAX. The registry findings have not shown an increase in the number of birth defects amongst ZOVIRAX exposed subjects compared with the general population, and any birth defects showed no uniqueness or consistent pattern to suggest a common cause.

The use of ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment should be considered only when the potential benefits outweigh the possibility of unknown risks.

Systemic administration of aciclovir in internationally accepted standard tests did not produce embryotoxic or teratogenic effects in rabbits, rats or mice.

In a non-standard test in rats, foetal abnormalities were observed but only following such high subcutaneous doses that maternal toxicity was produced. The clinical relevance of these findings is uncertain.

Limited human data show that the drug does pass into breast milk following systemic administration. However, the dosage received by a nursing infant following maternal use of ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment would be insignificant.

### ***Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines:***

No data.

### ***Other - Preclinical Safety Data:***

The results of a wide range of mutagenicity tests *in vitro* and *in vivo* indicate that aciclovir does not pose a genetic risk to man

Aciclovir was not found to be carcinogenic in long-term studies in the rat and the mouse.

Largely reversible adverse effects on spermatogenesis in association with overall toxicity in rats and dogs have been reported only at doses of aciclovir greatly in excess of those employed therapeutically. Two-generation studies in mice did not reveal any effect of orally administered aciclovir on fertility.

There is no information on the effect of ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment on human female fertility. In a study of 20 male patients with normal sperm count, oral aciclovir administered at doses of up to 1g per day for up to six months has been shown to have no clinically significant effect on sperm count, motility or morphology.

---

## Adverse Effects

---

Adverse reactions are listed below by MedDRA body system organ class and by frequency.

The frequency categories used are:

<i>very common</i>	$\geq 1/10$ ,
<i>common</i>	$\geq 1/100$ and $< 1/10$ ,
<i>uncommon</i>	$\geq 1/1000$ and $< 1/100$ ,
<i>rare</i>	$\geq 1/10,000$ and $< 1/1000$
<i>very rare</i>	$< 1/10,000$ .

Clinical trial data have been used to assign frequency categories to adverse reactions observed during clinical trials with aciclovir 3% ophthalmic ointment. Due to the nature of the adverse events observed, it is not possible to determine unequivocally which events were related to the administration of the drug and which were related to the disease. Spontaneous reporting data has been used as a basis for allocating frequency for those events observed post-marketing.

### **Immune system disorders:**

Very rare: Immediate hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema.

### **Eye disorders:**

Very common: Superficial punctate keratopathy. This did not necessitate an early termination of therapy and healed without apparent sequelae.

Common: Transient mild stinging of the eye occurring immediately following application, conjunctivitis.

Rare: Blepharitis.

Local irritation and inflammation such as blepharitis and conjunctivitis have been reported in patients receiving Zovirax ophthalmic ointment.

---

## **Interactions**

---

No clinically significant interactions have been identified.

---

## **Overdosage**

---

No untoward effects would be expected if the entire contents of the tube containing 135mg aciclovir were ingested orally.

---

## **Pharmaceutical Precautions**

---

### ***Instructions for Use/Handling:***

No data.

### ***Incompatibilities:***

No data.

### ***Shelf Life:***

5 years.

### ***Special Precautions for Storage:***

Store below 25°C.

An opened tube of ZOVIRAX Ophthalmic Ointment should be discarded after one month.

---

## **Medicine Classification**

---

Prescription Only Medicine.

---

## **Name and Address**

---

GlaxoSmithKline NZ Limited  
Quay Tower  
Cnr Albert & Customs Streets  
Private Bag 106600  
Downtown  
Auckland  
NEW ZEALAND.

---

## **Date of Preparation**

---

Issue date: 4 April 2007

Version: 1.0

ZOVIRAX™ is a trade mark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies.

© This Data Sheet is copyrighted to GlaxoSmithKline and may be reproduced but not altered in any way.