

ZOVIRAX[®] Cold Sore Cream

Aciclovir 5% w/w

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

What is in this leaflet?

This leaflet answers some common questions about ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream. It does not contain all of the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your pharmacist or doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits.

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 ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream is used for

ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream contains the active ingredient aciclovir. Aciclovir belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals. They are used for treating infections caused by the Herpes simplex virus.

ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream is used to treat cold sores on the lips and face. Cold sores are caused by Herpes simplex virus infection. ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream does not get rid of Herpes simplex virus infection from your body, so it cannot prevent cold sores from coming back. It does, however, reduce the severity and duration of cold sore symptoms when they appear.

You should only use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream if your doctor has already

told you that your cold sores are caused by the Herpes simplex virus.

Before you use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream

When you must not use it

Do not use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream if you have an allergy to:

- Aciclovir, valaciclovir, propylene glycol or any other ingredient in the product.

Do not use 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 using this medicine, talk to your pharmacist or doctor.

Before you start to use it

Tell your pharmacist or doctor if your cold sore is severe or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- You have an underlying condition, which might have weakened your immune system, such as HIV infection, or bone marrow or organ transplant.

Ask your pharmacist or doctor about using this medicine if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

This medicine should not be used if you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor has told you to.

If you have not told your

pharmacist or doctor about any of the above, tell them before you use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream.

Using other medicines

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

Some medicines may affect the way other medicines work.

As yet there are no medicines known which affect the way ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream works, or which are affected by Zovirax Cold Sore Cream. However, you should not mix this medicine with other creams, lotions or ointments and apply them to the affected area.

How to use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

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

How to use it

For external use only.

Apply a thin layer of cream to the affected area, including the outer edges of the cold sore blisters, if present, five times a day every four

hours and miss applying it in the middle of the night.

How long to use it

Use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream as soon as the first symptoms of a cold sore appear, such as burning, tingling or itching. You can still begin to use it once a blister has appeared.

Use it for no more than 4 days. If your symptoms do not improve after 4 days of treatment with ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream, you should tell your doctor.

If you forget to use it

If you forget to use the cream at any time, use it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the cream to be used, skip the missed application and go back to your normal routine of using it.

If you use too much (overdose)

Overdosing with ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream when it is applied to the skin is unlikely. **However, if you think that someone has accidentally swallowed the cream, immediately telephone your doctor or a Poisons Information Centre (telephone Australia 131126; New Zealand 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of poisoning or discomfort.**

While you are using ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream

Things you must do

Talk to your pharmacist or doctor if your symptoms do not improve.

Your pharmacist or doctor will assess your condition and decide if you should continue to use the medicine.

Tell your pharmacist or doctor if you become pregnant while using Zovirax Cold Sore Cream.

You should wash your hands thoroughly before and after applying ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream. Avoid rubbing your cold sores or touching them with a towel. These measures will help to avoid aggravating your own infection and reduce the risk of giving it to others.

Avoid contact with eyes. If you accidentally get Zovirax Cold Sore Cream in your eyes, wash out thoroughly with warm water. Consult your pharmacist or doctor if you are concerned.

Things you must not do

Do not mix ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream with other creams, ointments or lotions for application to the affected area.

Do not use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream more often or for longer than your pharmacist or doctor has told you to.

Do not use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream for any skin infection other than a cold sore.

Do not use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream inside your mouth or near your eyes.

Do not use ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream to treat genital herpes infection.

Do not give ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream to anyone else even if they appear to have the same condition as you.

Side-Effects

Tell your pharmacist or doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Zovirax Cold Sore Cream.

This medicine helps most people but it may have unwanted 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.

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

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

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

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalization. These side effects are very rare for low doses of this medicine when used for a short period of time.

ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream can occasionally cause temporary burning, stinging, itching, redness, drying and flaking at the area where it is applied. These side effects are usually mild. Check with your pharmacist or doctor if they continue to be troublesome.

As with many other products applied to the skin, allergic contact dermatitis (a hot, itchy rash where the cream has been applied) can occur very occasionally. This is usually caused by one of the inactive ingredients in ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream, rather than the active ingredient, aciclovir. If any of these symptoms occur and they worry you, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

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

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

5% w/w aciclovir as the active ingredient.

After using ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream

Storage

Keep your medicine in the original container until it is time to use it.

Always screw the cap or lid down tightly after using ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream. If the cream is exposed to air for too long it may not work as well.

Keep ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream or any other medicine in a bathroom or near a sink. Do not put ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream in a refrigerator. Do not leave it on a window sill or in a car.

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.

Disposal

Ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over, or if the expiry date has passed.

Product description

What it looks like

ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream is a smooth white cream, and comes in either a 2g aluminium tube or a 2g pump dispenser pack.

Ingredients

ZOVIRAX Cold Sore Cream contains

It also contains:

- Propylene glycol
- Paraffin – soft white
- Cetostearyl alcohol
- Paraffin – liquid
- Arlachel 165
- Dimethicone 20
- Poloxamer
- Sodium lauryl sulphate
- Water - purified

Manufacturer/Supplier

Zovirax Cold Sore Cream is manufactured in the UK and supplied by:

GlaxoSmithKline
Consumer Healthcare,
82 Hughes Avenue
Ermington NSW 2115 Australia &
Auckland, New Zealand.

The Australian Registration number is:

AUST R 150098 (tube)
AUST R 150099 (pump pack)

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