

LOVIR

aciclovir

200 mg, 400 mg and 800 mg dispersible tablets.

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking LOVIR.

This leaflet answers some common questions about LOVIR 200 mg, 400 mg and 800 mg 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 LOVIR against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking LOVIR 200 mg, 400 mg and 800 mg tablets, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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

What LOVIR tablets are used for

LOVIR tablets contain the active ingredient aciclovir.

Aciclovir belongs to a group of medicines called “anti-virals”. LOVIR works by stopping the herpes virus being able to reproduce. The length and severity of an outbreak of herpes is therefore reduced. Long term use of LOVIR can reduce the number of herpes outbreaks in people who experience this condition often. LOVIR does not get rid of the herpes virus from your body.

Your doctor may have prescribed LOVIR tablets for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why LOVIR has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take LOVIR tablets

When you must not take it

Do not take LOVIR if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing aciclovir or a class of medicines called “anti-virals”.
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- difficulty in breathing or wheezing
- shortness of breath
- swelling of the face, tongue, lips or other parts of the body
- hives on the skin, rash, or itching.

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant.

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

Do not breastfeed if you are taking this medicine.

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

Do not take it after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the back. If you take it after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

Do not take it if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

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

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if:

- 1. you have allergies to:**
 - Any other medicines including LOVIR
 - Any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.
- 2. you have, or have had, the following medical conditions:**
 - kidney disease
 - liver disease
 - any blood condition
 - conditions affecting your brain.
- 3. you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.
- 4. you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking LOVIR.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. You should also tell any health professional who is prescribing a new medication for you that you are taking LOVIR.

Some medicines may interfere with LOVIR. These include:

- Probenecid (a treatment for gout)
- Diuretics (fluid tablets)

These medicines may be affected by LOVIR or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking LOVIR.

How to take LOVIR

How much to take

Your doctor will decide at what dose and for how long you will need LOVIR tablets.

Your doctor and pharmacist will be able to tell you:

- How many tablets to take at a time.
- How many doses a day you are to take.
- When you are to take each dose.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully. Your doctor may have prescribed a different dose.

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

The usual dose of LOVIR in the treatment of an outbreak of herpes is either **one 200 mg tablet every four hours** while awake (a total of five tablets daily) **or one 400 mg tablet twice a day for five or ten days**. This dose may be varied by your doctor depending on the response. Your doctor may also vary the LOVIR dosage for other medical reasons.

The usual dose of LOVIR used to treat shingles is **one 800 mg tablet every four hours** while you are awake (a total of five tablets daily) for seven days. However, your doctor may vary this dose if you have other medical conditions also.

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

How to take it

LOVIR may be swallowed whole with a glass of water or dispersed in a quarter of a glass of water (Not less than 50 ml per dose) and then swallowed.

When to take it

As directed by your doctor

How long to take it

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you. This medicine helps you control your condition but does not cure it. Therefore, you must take it every day.

If you forget to take it

If you have forgotten to take one dose of LOVIR tablets and it is almost time to take your next scheduled dose, skip the dose you have missed, and continue taking your LOVIR tablets 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 missed.

Taking your medicine at the same time each day may help you to remember to take it regularly. If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

While you are taking LOVIR tablets

Things you must do

Drink lots of fluids.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking LOVIR.

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.

Tell your doctor if you feel that your condition is not improving or getting worse.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking LOVIR, or lower the dosage, without checking with your doctor. Consult your doctor first.

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 LOVIR tablets long term. Your doctor will advise you when to stop taking LOVIR tablets.

Do not give LOVIR to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use LOVIR to treat any other complaints unless the doctor tells you to.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how LOVIR affects you. It may cause dizziness or light-headedness in some people, especially after the first dose. Make sure you know how you react to it before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you feel dizzy.

Be careful if you are over 65 and unwell or taking other medicines. Some people may experience side effects such as drowsiness, confusion, dizziness and unsteadiness, which may increase the risk of a fall.

Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking this medicine.

If you drink alcohol, (symptoms as per PI e.g. dizziness or light-headedness) may be worse. (can also include other medicines that affect alertness such as antihistamines, as per PI).

If you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint when getting out of bed or standing up, get up slowly.

Standing up slowly, especially when you get up from bed or chairs, will help your body get used to the change in position and blood pressure. If this problem continues or gets worse, talk to your doctor.

In case of overdose

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much LOVIR.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Take the pack of LOVIR with you if you can.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking LOVIR.

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

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

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

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- Abdominal cramps
- Any skin reactions
- Bruising easily
- Diarrhoea
- Dizziness / Unsteadiness
- Feeling sick – nausea or being sick
- Fluid retention, leg and joint pain
- Hair loss
- Hallucinations
- Headache
- Liver and kidney problems
- Sensitivity to light
- Shakiness
- Tiredness, weakness
- Trouble sleeping

If any of the following happen, stop taking LOVIR and tell your 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 and swallowing
- Fever
- Low blood pressure (feeling tired and weak)

These are very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious allergic reaction to LOVIR. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

Tell your doctor if you notice any other effects. Other adverse effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.

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

LOVIR tablets are not known to be addictive.

After taking LOVIR

Storage

Keep your LOVIR tablets in their original pack and protect from light and moisture until it is time to take them. If you leave the tablets out of the pack, they may not keep well.

Keep LOVIR tablets in a cool, dark and dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store LOVIR tablets in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on a windowsill. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

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 they have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any unused medicine. **Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.**

Product description

What it looks like

LOVIR 200 mg: White to off-white capsule shaped, biconvex uncoated tablet with “200” debossed on one side and “ACV” on the other side. They are available in packs of 25 tablets.

LOVIR 400 mg: White to off-white capsule shaped, biconvex uncoated tablet with “400” debossed on one side and “ACV” on the other side. They are available in packs of 56 tablets.

LOVIR 800 mg: White to off-white capsule shaped, biconvex uncoated tablet with “800” debossed on one side and “ACV” on the other side. They are available in packs of 35 tablets.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

Each LOVIR 200 mg tablet contains 200 mg of aciclovir.

Each LOVIR 400 mg tablet contains 400 mg of aciclovir.

Each LOVIR 800 mg tablet contains 800 mg of aciclovir.

Inactive ingredients:

- Magnesium stearate,

- Microcrystalline cellulose
- Pregelatinised maize starch
- Silicon dioxide
- Sodium starch glycollate

Sponsor details

LOVIR tablets are supplied in New Zealand by:

Douglas Pharmaceuticals Ltd

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New Zealand

Phone: (09) 835 0660

Date of preparation

This leaflet was revised on 02 August 2023.