

VIRUPOS

Aciclovir

3% w/w (30 g/g) eye ointment

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using ViruPOS eye ointment. 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 using ViruPOS eye ointment against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

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

What ViruPOS eye ointment is used for

ViruPOS eye ointment contains an antiviral used to treat an eye infection called herpes simplex keratitis. This is a viral infection in the eye. It is **not** used in other infections in the eye such as conjunctivitis.

Your doctor may have prescribed ViruPOS for another reason.

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

This medicine is available only on prescription.

Before you use ViruPOS eye ointment

When you must not use it

Do not use ViruPOS eye ointment if:

- you have an allergy to ViruPOS eye ointment, acyclovir, valaciclovir or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering, or the ointment has changed colour
- it is past the expiry date printed on the pack; if you use this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work
- it is more than one month after you first opened the tube of ointment.

If you are not sure whether you should start using ViruPOS eye ointment, contact your doctor.

Before you start to use ViruPOS eye ointment

Tell your doctor if:

- you have any allergies to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant
- you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed.

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

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking 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 using ViruPOS.

It is not expected that ViruPOS will interfere with other medicines you might be using; however, you should always ask your practitioner, doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns about using ViruPOS together with other medicines.

How to use ViruPOS eye ointment

How much to use

Follow your doctor's instructions about how and when to use ViruPOS eye ointment. See below for how to apply.

Do not touch the nozzle of the eye ointment or the eye ointment as it comes out of the tube. Wash your hands well with soap and dry them thoroughly before you apply the eye ointment.

With your finger under the bottom eye lid, pull the skin down gently so that the bottom eye lid comes down creating a little pocket between the eye and the eye lid. Put 10 mm (1 cm, just under half an inch) of ointment into this pocket. Release the eye lid and blink a couple of times to spread the ointment across the eye.

When to use it

ViruPOS eye ointment is usually applied five times a day – about every four hours while you are awake.

How long to use it

Keep using ViruPOS for at least three days after the eye infection has cleared up.

If you forget to use it

If you forget a dose of ViruPOS eye ointment, use it as soon as you remember then continue to use approximately every four hours.

It is important not to miss multiple doses of ViruPOS – it needs to be used regularly to work properly.

While you are using ViruPOS eye ointment

Things you must do

- If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.
- If you develop itching with swelling of the face, a skin rash or difficulty breathing while you are using ViruPOS eye ointment do not use any more and contact your doctor immediately.
- If you become pregnant while you are using ViruPOS eye ointment tell your doctor or pharmacist.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine tell your doctor dentist or pharmacist that you are taking ViruPOS.

Things you must not do

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

Things to be careful of

- Do not use ViruPOS eye ointment to treat any other complaints including any other eye infections.
- There is no information on whether ViruPOS eye ointment affects the ability to drive or operate machinery. If you have blurred vision after applying the ointment, do not drive or operate machinery.

In case of overdose

If you use too much (overdose)

Overdosing with ViruPOS eye ointment when it is applied to the skin is unlikely.

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 ingested ViruPOS.

Do this even if there are no signs of poisoning or discomfort.

Side effects

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

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

Mild effects

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following that are troublesome or ongoing:

- Mild stinging of the eye straight after applying the ointment. This usually only lasts a short time.
- Itchy, watery eyes, (conjunctivitis)

More serious effects

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

If you think that ViruPOS eye ointment is causing you to have an allergic (hypersensitivity) reaction, TELL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY. Symptoms include:

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

You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are very rare.

Other side effects reported with ViruPOS eye ointment include:

- Marks on the surface of the eye that look like points or dots. You don't need to stop using ViruPOS and the marks will disappear again.

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

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

After using ViruPOS

Storage

Store in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25 °C. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines. Do not keep medicines in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills. Throw the tube of ointment away 4 weeks after opening it.

Store all medicines out of the reach of children.

Disposal

If your doctor advises you to stop using ViruPOS eye ointment, the medicine has passed its expiry date, or it is more than 4 weeks after opening, ask your pharmacist what to do with any ointment that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

ViruPOS eye ointment is a near-white, translucent (allows light through) eye ointment.

ViruPOS eye ointment is available a 4.5g tube.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

- Aciclovir (3% w/w or 30 g/g)

Inactive ingredient:

- White soft paraffin

Sponsor details

VirusPOS is supplied in New Zealand by:

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