

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

ZOVIRAX® 800mg Dispersible Tablets

Aciclovir

PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START TAKING YOUR MEDICINE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION PLEASE ASK YOUR DOCTOR OR A PHARMACIST. KEEP THIS LEAFLET UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS PACK, AS YOU MAY WANT TO READ IT AGAIN.

WHAT IS IN ZOVIRAX 800mg DISPERSIBLE TABLETS?

The name of your medicine is Zovirax 800mg Dispersible tablets. The active ingredient is aciclovir. It belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals. Each dispersible tablet contains 800mg of aciclovir.

There are also some other ingredients in Zovirax 800mg Dispersible tablets. These are microcrystalline cellulose, aluminium magnesium silicate, sodium starch glycolate, povidone K30, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, macrogol 400, macrogol 8000 and titanium dioxide (E171). Zovirax 800mg Dispersible tablets come in packs of 35 tablets.

Zovirax 800mg Dispersible tablets are: White, biconvex, elongated, film-coated tablet, impressed with 'GX CG1' on one face and plain on the other.

Product procured from within the EU by the Parallel Product Authorisation holder:

PCO Manufacturing, Unit 10, Ashbourne Business Park, Rath, Ashbourne, Co. Meath

Manufacturer:

Zovirax 800mg Dispersible tablets are manufactured by:

Glaxo Wellcome, S.A., Avda. Extremadura, 3, 09400 Aranda de Duero, Burgos, Spain or The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., Dartford, Kent, UK.

WHAT ARE ZOVIRAX 800mg DISPERSIBLE TABLETS FOR?

Zovirax is an antiviral medicine.

This medicine is used to treat shingles (herpes zoster) and chickenpox (varicella zoster).

Doctors sometimes prescribe this medicine for other purposes, or at different doses to those stated below. If you think this applies to you, ask your doctor.

WHO CAN TAKE ZOVIRAX 800mg DISPERSIBLE TABLETS?

Ask these questions before taking Zovirax 800mg Dispersible Tablets:

- Are you pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breast-feeding?
- Have you previously experienced an allergic reaction to aciclovir, valaciclovir or to any of the other ingredients listed above?
- Do you suffer from kidney or liver disease?
- Are you currently taking any of the following medicines: probenecid, cimetidine or mycophenolate mofetil?

If the answer is **YES** to any of these questions, (or if you are unsure if they apply to you), and if you have not already discussed them with your doctor, tell your doctor or pharmacist before you take this medicine.

HOW DO YOU TAKE ZOVIRAX 800mg DISPERSIBLE TABLETS?

It is important to take your medicine at the right times. You must take it the way your doctor has told you to. The label on the pack will tell you how much to take and how often to take it. If the label doesn't say or if you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

- The usual dosage for adults is one tablet five times a day at about 4-hourly intervals, for 7 days.
- The usual dose for children aged 6 years and over is one tablet four times a day (6 hourly intervals) for 5 days.
- Taking your tablets regularly will ensure the levels of medicine needed to reduce your rash and shorten the discomfort.
- Your treatment pack contains 7 separate blister strips of tablets, one blister for each day of the week. Each blister strip contains 5 tablets.
- Select a blister strip for the day. Either take your tablets at 7am, 11am, 3pm, 7pm, and 11pm or note down corresponding 4 hourly intervals to suit the times you get up and go to bed. By the end of the day, you should have taken 5 tablets.
- If you do not have a full day ahead of you on Day 1 of treatment, immediately take the tablet which is nearest to the time of day, and then one every 4 hours until bedtime. You will then have tablets left at the end of day 7. Take the rest of the tablets as usual, until the pack is finished.

- Dissolve the tablet in a minimum of 50ml of water (a quarter of a glass) and stir before drinking.
- If preferred, the tablet can be swallowed whole with a little water.
- If you forget to take a dose don't worry. Just take one as soon as you remember and then take the next dose at the right time.
- If you take too much medicine, or if someone else takes it by mistake, contact your doctor or pharmacist immediately.
- You should ensure that you drink plenty of fluids whilst receiving this treatment.

DO ZOVIRAX 800mg DISPERSIBLE TABLETS HAVE SIDE EFFECTS?

Zovirax does not often have side effects. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you experience any of the following while you are taking Zovirax:

- Stomach upsets such as feeling sick, vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach pains.
- Dizziness, feel very tired, confused or imagine things (hallucinate), agitation, tremors.
- Weakness, giddiness or breathlessness, these symptoms may mean that you are suffering from a reduction in red blood cell count (anaemia).
- Bruising.
- Convulsions.
- Loss of consciousness.
- Headache.
- Hair loss.
- Skin reaction after exposure to sunlight.
- Fever (high temperature).

Check with your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following rare allergy symptoms: sudden wheeziness, fluttering or tightness in the chest; collapse; swelling of eyelids, face, lips or elsewhere; skin rash or weals.

THESE SYMPTOMS MAY MEAN THAT YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO ZOVIRAX.

Do not take any more tablets unless your doctor tells you to do so.

Very rare side effects of Zovirax are hepatitis (inflammation of the liver), jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes) and kidney failure.

Zovirax may affect some blood and urine tests. Let your doctor know you are taking these tablets if you are having a blood or urine test.

Tell your pharmacist or doctor if you notice any other side effects from your medicine, which are not mentioned here.

LOOK AFTER YOUR ZOVIRAX 800mg DISPERSIBLE TABLETS

- Keep this medicine in a safe place where children cannot see or reach it.
- Do not store above 30°C. Keep blister in the outer carton in order to protect from light and moisture.
- Do not take any medicine after the expiry date stated on the blister and carton. This is the date which follows 'EXP'. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month.
- If your doctor decides to stop treatment, return any left over tablets to your pharmacist for disposal. Only keep them if your doctor tells you to.

REMEMBER

This medicine is only for the use of the person to whom it was prescribed. It should never be given to others even if their symptoms are similar.

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