

DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion

Aciclovir (ay -SYE- kloe -veer)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion. 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 being given aciclovir against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion is used for

This medicine is used for the management of a number of different infections caused by viruses, such as herpes and shingles.

This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals.

It works by preventing the reproduction of the virus which is causing the condition.

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

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.

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

Before you are given DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion

When you must not be given it

You should not be given DBL® Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing aciclovir
- valaciclovir.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

If you are not sure whether you should be given this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- kidney disease
- liver disease
- any condition affecting your nervous system
- irregular electrolyte levels
- hypoxia (inadequate oxygen supply to the cells of the body).

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.

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

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you are given aciclovir.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines and DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion may interfere with each other. These include:

- probenecid, a medicine used to treat gout
- cimetidine, a medicine used for stomach ulcers or heartburn
- diuretics, that is, medicines to prevent fluid retention
- zidovudine, a medicine used for HIV infection or AIDS
- cyclosporin, mycophenolate, tacrolimus, or interferon, medicines used to control the immune system
- methotrexate, a medicine used for cancer and conditions of the immune system.

These medicines may be affected by aciclovir, or may affect how well it works.

You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while you are being given this medicine.

How DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion is given

DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion is given by slow infusion directly into the bloodstream. It is administered by a doctor or nurse.

How much is given

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your condition and other factors, such as your weight.

Overdose

As DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion is most likely to be given to you in hospital under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive an overdose. However, if you experience severe side effects tell your doctor immediately.

Symptoms of an overdose may include the side effects listed below in the 'Side Effects' section, but are usually of a more severe nature.

In case of overdose, immediately contact the Poisons Information Centre for advice (telephone 13 11 26 in Australia, or call 0800 764 766 in New Zealand)

While you are being given DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion

Things to be careful of

You should drink plenty of fluids as instructed by your doctor or nurse. If you are unable to drink, due to your condition, your doctor will ensure that you receive plenty of fluids.

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how aciclovir affects you.

This medicine may cause dizziness, light-headedness, tiredness, or drowsiness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given aciclovir.

This medicine helps most people with viral infections, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

All medicines can have 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.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

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

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- nausea and/or vomiting
- discomfort, swelling, redness or heat at the injection site.

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine. They are usually mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- sudden pain at the injection site
- symptoms of an allergic reaction such as shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin
- seizures (fits), confusion, tremor, hallucinations, agitation, dizziness or changes in thinking
- pain or problems in passing urine or blood in the urine
- severe blisters and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth and genitals
- abnormal bleeding or bruising
- yellowing of the skin and eyes, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, feeling generally unwell, fever, itching, and dark coloured urine (these may be symptoms of liver disease)
- tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale.

The above list includes serious side effects which may require urgent medical attention.

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

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

After being given DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion

Storage

DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injection is kept in a cool dry place (but not in a refrigerator), where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Product description

What it looks like

DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion is a clear, colourless or almost colourless solution. It is supplied in glass vials in packs of 5.

Ingredients

DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion contains 25 mg/mL of aciclovir as the active ingredient.

It also contains:

- sodium hydroxide
- water for injection.

This medicine does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Sponsor

Australian Sponsor:

Hospira Australia Pty Ltd
ABN 58 097 064 330
Level 3
500 Collins Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia

New Zealand Sponsor:

Hospira NZ Limited
58 Richard Pearse Drive
Airport Oaks, Mangere 2022
Auckland
New Zealand

DBL™ Aciclovir Intravenous Infusion is available in the following strengths:

- 250 mg /10 mL
AUST R 56809
- 500 mg /20 mL
AUST R 56810

This leaflet was updated in June 2015.