

Core Safety Profile

Active substance:	Aciclovir
Pharmaceutical form(s)/strength:	Cream: 5% w/w aciclovir Ophthalmic ointment: 3% w/w aciclovir
P-RMS:	DK/H/PSUR/0035/002
Date of FAR:	22.06.2013

4.3. Contraindications

Cream:

Aciclovir cream is contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to aciclovir, valaciclovir, propylene glycol or any of the excipients of aciclovir cream.

Ophthalmic Ointment:

Aciclovir ophthalmic ointment is contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to aciclovir or valaciclovir, or any of the excipients.

4.4. Special warnings and precautions for use

Cream:

Aciclovir cream is not recommended for application to mucous membranes, such as in the mouth, eye or vagina, as it may be irritant. Particular care should be taken to avoid accidental introduction into the eye.

In severely immune-compromised patients (e.g. AIDS patients or bone marrow transplant recipients) oral aciclovir dosing should be considered. Such patients should be encouraged to consult a physician concerning the treatment of any infection.

The excipient propylene glycol can cause skin irritations and the excipient cetyl alcohol can cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).

Ophthalmic Ointment:

Patients should be informed that transient mild stinging immediately following application may occur.

Patients should avoid wearing contact lenses when using aciclovir ophthalmic ointment.

4.5. Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No clinically significant interactions have been identified.

4.6. Pregnancy and Lactation

Fertility

See Clinical Studies in section 5.2

Pregnancy

Cream:

The use of aciclovir should be considered only when the potential benefits outweigh the possibility of unknown risks however the systemic exposure to aciclovir from topical application of aciclovir cream is very low.

Ophthalmic Ointment:

The use of aciclovir should be considered only when the potential benefits outweigh the possibility of unknown risks.

Cream and Ophthalmic Ointment:

A post-marketing aciclovir pregnancy registry has documented pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to any formulation of aciclovir. The registry findings have not shown an increase in the number of birth defects amongst aciclovir exposed subjects compared with the general population, and any birth defects showed no uniqueness or consistent pattern to suggest a common cause.

Systemic administration of aciclovir in internationally accepted standard tests did not produce embryotoxic or teratogenic effects in rabbits, rats or mice.

In a non-standard test in rats, foetal abnormalities were observed but only following such high subcutaneous doses that maternal toxicity was produced. The clinical relevance of these findings is uncertain.

Lactation

Limited human data show that the drug does pass into breast milk following systemic administration. However, the dosage received by a nursing infant following maternal use of aciclovir cream or ophthalmic ointment would be insignificant.

4.7. Ability to perform tasks that require judgement, motor or cognitive skills

Ophthalmic Ointment:

Eye ointments can affect visual ability and therefore caution is advised when driving or using machines.

4.8. Undesirable effects

The following convention has been used for the classification of undesirable effects in terms of frequency:- Very common $\geq 1/10$, common $\geq 1/100$ and $< 1/10$, uncommon $1/1000$ and $< 1/100$, rare $\geq 1/10,000$ and $< 1/1000$, very rare $< 1/10,000$.

Clinical trial data have been used to assign frequency categories to adverse reactions observed during clinical trials with aciclovir 3% ophthalmic ointment. Due to the nature of the adverse events observed, it is not possible to determine unequivocally which events were related to the administration of the drug and which were related to the disease. Spontaneous reporting data has been used as a basis for allocating frequency for those events observed post-marketing.

Cream:

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Uncommon: Transient burning or stinging following application of aciclovir cream.

Mild drying or flaking of the skin.

Itching.

Rare: Erythema. Contact dermatitis following application. Where sensitivity tests have been conducted, the reactive substances have most often been shown to be components of the cream rather than aciclovir.

Cream and Ophthalmic Ointment:

Immune system disorders

Very rare: Immediate hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema and urticaria.

Ophthalmic Ointment:

Eye disorders

Very common: Superficial punctate keratopathy

This did not necessitate an early termination of therapy and healed without apparent sequelae.

Common: Transient mild stinging of the eye occurring immediately following application, conjunctivitis

Rare: Blepharitis

4.9. Overdose

No untoward effects would be expected if the entire contents of the tube containing 500 mg of aciclovir (cream) or 135 mg aciclovir (ophthalmic ointment) were ingested orally.