acyclovir (oral)

Pronunciation: a SYE klo veer

Brand: Sitavig, Zovirax

What is the most important information I should know about acyclovir?

Follow all directions on your medicine label and package. Tell each of your healthcare providers about all your medical conditions, allergies, and all medicines you use.

What is acyclovir?

Acyclovir is an antiviral drug. It slows the growth and spread of the herpes virus in the body. Acyclovir will not cure herpes, but it can lessen the symptoms of the infection.

Acyclovir is used to treat infections caused by herpes viruses, such as genital herpes, cold sores, shingles, and chicken pox.

Acyclovir may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking acyclovir?

You should not take this medicine if you are allergic to acyclovir or valacyclovir (Valtrex). You should not take acyclovir buccal tablets (Sitavig) if you are allergic to milk proteins.

To make sure acyclovir is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- kidney disease; or
- a weak immune system (caused by disease or by using certain
medicine).

Acyclovir is not expected to harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment.

Herpes can be passed to your baby during childbirth if you have a genital lesion when your baby is born. If you have genital herpes, it is very important to prevent herpes lesions during pregnancy. Take your medicine as directed to best control your infection.

Acyclovir passes into breast milk and may harm a nursing infant. Do not take this medication without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

Do not give an acyclovir buccal tablet to a young child or choking could occur.

How should I take acyclovir?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Treatment with acyclovir should be started as soon as possible after the first appearance of symptoms (such as tingling, burning, blisters).

Shake the oral suspension (liquid) well just before you measure a dose. Measure liquid medicine with the dosing syringe provided, or with a special dose-measuring spoon or medicine cup. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

To take the buccal tablet (Sitavig):

- Keep the tablet in its blister pack until you are ready to take it. Use a dry finger to remove the tablet.
- Do not chew or swallow a buccal tablet. Place the flat side of the tablet against your upper gum, behind your lip and above your canine tooth. Place the tablet on the same side of the mouth as your cold sore.
- Close your mouth and gently press on the outside of your lip over the tablet, holding it in place for 30 seconds. Avoid touching or pressing on the tablet once it is in place.
- Allow the tablet to dissolve in your mouth throughout the day. You may eat and drink normally while the buccal tablet is in place.
- During the first 6 hours of wearing time: If the tablet falls off or does not stick well, you may replace it with a new tablet. If you accidentally swallow the tablet, drink a glass of water and put a new tablet in place.

Tell your doctor if you have any changes in weight. Acyclovir doses are based on weight (especially in children and teenagers), and any changes may affect the dose.
Drink plenty of water while you are taking acyclovir to keep your kidneys working properly.

Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time. Your symptoms may improve before the infection is completely treated. Acyclovir will not treat a viral infection such as the flu or a common cold.

Lesions caused by herpes viruses should be kept as clean and dry as possible. Wearing loose clothing may help to prevent irritation of the lesions.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

**What happens if I miss a dose?**

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

**What happens if I overdose?**

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include agitation, seizure (convulsions), or loss of consciousness.

**What should I avoid while taking acyclovir?**

Avoid brushing your teeth, chewing gum, or wearing an upper denture while you have a buccal tablet in your mouth. You may rinse your mouth gently. Drink plenty of liquids to prevent dry mouth.

Herpes infections are contagious and you can infect other people, even while you are being treated with acyclovir. Avoid letting infected areas come into contact with other people. Avoid touching an infected area and then touching your eyes. Wash your hands frequently to prevent passing the infection to others.

Taking this medicine will not prevent you from passing genital herpes to your sexual partner. Avoid sexual intercourse while you have active lesions or the first symptoms of an outbreak. Genital herpes may still be contagious through "viral shedding" from your skin, even if you have no symptoms.

**What are the possible side effects of acyclovir?**

Get emergency medical help if you have signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:
acyclovir (oral)

- easy bruising or bleeding, purple or red pinpoint spots under your skin;
or
- signs of a kidney problem—little or no urinating; painful or difficult urination; swelling in your feet or ankles; feeling tired or short of breath.

Common side effects may include:

- nausea, vomiting;
- diarrhea;
- general ill feeling;
- headache; or
- mouth pain while using an acyclovir buccal tablet.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What other drugs will affect acyclovir?

Acyclovir can harm your kidneys. This effect is increased when you also use certain other medicines, including: antivirals, chemotherapy, injected antibiotics, medicine for bowel disorders, medicine to prevent organ transplant rejection, injectable osteoporosis medication, and some pain or arthritis medicines (including aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, and Aleve).

Other drugs may interact with acyclovir, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use now and any medicine you start or stop using.

Where can I get more information?

Your pharmacist can provide more information about acyclovir.

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Cerner Multum, Inc. ('Multum') is accurate, up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum information has been compiled for use by healthcare practitioners and consumers in the United States and therefore Multum does not warrant that uses outside of the United States are appropriate, unless specifically indicated otherwise. Multum's drug information does not endorse drugs, diagnose patients or recommend therapy. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and
judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient. Multum does not assume any responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of information Multum provides. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.


Note: The "printer friendly" document will not contain all the information available in the online document. Some information (e.g. cross-references to other topics, definitions or medical illustrations) is only available in the online version.

Healthwise, Healthwise for every health decision, and the Healthwise logo are trademarks of Healthwise, Incorporated. This information does not replace the advice of a doctor. Healthwise, Incorporated disclaims any warranty or liability for your use of this information.
fluconazole

Pronunciation: floo KOE na zole

Brand: Diflucan

What is the most important information I should know about fluconazole?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using. Many drugs can interact, and some drugs should not be used together.

What is fluconazole?

Fluconazole is an antifungal medicine.

Fluconazole is used to treat infections caused by fungus, which can invade any part of the body including the mouth, throat, esophagus, lungs, bladder, genital area, and the blood.

Fluconazole is also used to prevent fungal infection in people who have a weak immune system caused by cancer treatment, bone marrow transplant, or diseases such as AIDS.

Fluconazole may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking fluconazole?

You should not use fluconazole if you are allergic to it.
Some medicines can cause unwanted or dangerous effects when used with fluconazole. Your doctor may change your treatment plan if you also use:

- an antibiotic, antifungal, or antiviral medicine;
- a blood thinner;
- cancer medicine;
- cholesterol medication;
- oral diabetes medicine;
- heart or blood pressure medication;
- medicine for malaria or tuberculosis;
- medicine to prevent organ transplant rejection;
- medicine to treat depression or mental illness;
- an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug);
- seizure medicine; or
- steroid medicine.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver disease;
- HIV or AIDS;
- cancer;
- heart disease or heart rhythm disorder;
- long QT syndrome (in you or a family member);
- kidney disease; or
- if you are allergic to other antifungal medicine (such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, micnazole, posaconazole, voriconazole, and others).

The liquid form of fluconazole contains sucrose. Talk to your doctor before using this form of fluconazole if you have a problem digesting sugars or milk.

Fluconazole may harm an unborn baby. Use effective birth control to prevent pregnancy while you are using this medicine, and tell your doctor if you become pregnant.

It may not be safe to breast-feed a baby while you are using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risks.

How should I take fluconazole?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Your dose will depend on the infection you are treating. Vaginal infections are often treated with only one pill. For other infections, your first dose may be a double dose. Carefully follow your doctor’s instructions.

You may take fluconazole with or without food.
Shake the oral suspension (liquid) before you measure a dose. Use the
dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a
kitchen spoon).

Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time, even if your symptoms
quickly improve. Skipping doses can increase your risk of infection that is
resistant to medication. Fluconazole will not treat a viral infection such as the
flu or a common cold.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

Store the tablets at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

You may store liquid fluconazole in a refrigerator, but do not allow it to freeze.
Throw away any leftover liquid that is more than 2 weeks old.

**What happens if I miss a dose?**

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost
time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

**What happens if I overdose?**

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-
1222. Overdose symptoms may include confusion or unusual thoughts or
behavior.

**What should I avoid while taking fluconazole?**

Follow your doctor’s instructions about any restrictions on food, beverages, or
activity.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect
you. Your reactions could be impaired.

**What are the possible side effects of fluconazole?**

Get emergency medical help if you have signs of an allergic reaction (hives,
difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) or a severe skin reaction
(fever, sore throat, burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with
blistering and peeling).

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- fast or pounding heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, shortness of breath,
  and sudden dizziness (like you might pass out);
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms;
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- seizure (convulsions);
• skin rash or skin lesions; or
• liver problems — loss of appetite, stomach pain (upper right side), dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Common side effects may include:

• stomach pain, diarrhea, upset stomach;
• headache;
• dizziness; or
• changes in your sense of taste.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What other drugs will affect fluconazole?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Many drugs can interact with fluconazole, and some drugs should not be used together. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication guide. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

Where can I get more information?

Your pharmacist can provide more information about fluconazole.

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Cerner Multum, Inc. ('Multum') is accurate, up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum information has been compiled for use by healthcare practitioners and consumers in the United States and therefore Multum does not warrant that uses outside of the United States are appropriate, unless specifically indicated otherwise. Multum's drug information does not endorse drugs, diagnose patients or recommend therapy. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient.
Multum does not assume any responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of information Multum provides. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.


Note: The "printer friendly" document will not contain all the information available in the online document. Some information (e.g. cross-references to other topics, definitions or medical illustrations) is only available in the online version.

Healthwise, Healthwise for every health decision, and the Healthwise logo are trademarks of Healthwise, Incorporated. This information does not replace the advice of a doctor. Healthwise, Incorporated disclaims any warranty or liability for your use of this information.