AUSTRALIAN PRODUCT INFORMATION – ViruPOS (ACICLOVIR) EYE OINTMENT

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINE

Aciclovir

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

White to pale yellow sterile ointment containing 3 per cent w/w aciclovir in a white soft paraffin base.

For the full list of excipients, see **Section 6.1 List of excipients**.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Eye ointment

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS

Treatment of *Herpes simplex* keratitis.

4.2 DOSE AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

Adults: 1 cm ribbon of ointment should be placed inside the lower conjunctival sac five times a day at approximately four hourly intervals. Treatment should be continued for 14 days or at least 3 days after healing is completed, whichever is shorter.

Children: As for adults.

For individual patient use only.

4.3 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Patients with known hypersensitivity to aciclovir or valaciclovir.

4.4 SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

Identified precautions

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

Patients should avoid wearing contact lenses when using VIRUPOS eye ointment.

Resistant strains have been isolated *in vitro* and in animals following treatment with aciclovir. HSV strains resistant *in vitro* to aciclovir have also been isolated from immunocompromised as well as immuno-competent patients receiving aciclovir for *Herpes simplex* infections. Therefore, the potential for the development of resistant HSV strains in patients treated with aciclovir should be borne in mind. The relationship between *in vitro* sensitivity of herpes viruses to aciclovir and clinical response to therapy has yet to be established.

Use in the elderly

No data available.

Paediatric use

No data available.

Effects on laboratory tests

No data available.

4.5 INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERACTIONS

No data available.

4.6 FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Effects on fertility

There is no information on the effect of VIRUPOS on human female fertility. In a study of 20 male patients with normal sperm count, oral aciclovir administered at doses of up to 1g per day for up to six months has been shown to have no clinically significant effect on sperm count, motility or morphology.

Use in pregnancy – Pregnancy Category B3

Animal studies show that aciclovir crosses the placenta readily. Aciclovir was not teratogenic in the mouse (450 mg/kg/day po), rabbit (50 mg/kg/day, sc and iv) or rat (50 mg/kg/day, sc) when dosed throughout the period of major organogenesis. In additional studies in which rats were given 3 sc doses of 100 mg/kg aciclovir on gestation day 10, fetal abnormalities, such as head and tail anomalies, were reported).

There have been no adequate and well controlled studies concerning the safety of aciclovir in pregnant women. Only small amounts are absorbed following application to the eye. It should not be used during pregnancy unless the benefits to the patient clearly outweigh the potential risks to the foetus.

Use in lactation.

Limited human data show that aciclovir does pass into breast milk. Aciclovir should only be administered to nursing mothers if the benefits to the mother outweigh the potential risks to the baby.

4.7 EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES

The effects of this medicine on a person's ability to drive and use machines were not assessed as part of its registration.

4.8 ADVERSE EFFECTS (UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS)

Transient mild stinging immediately following administration occurs in a proportion of patients. Superficial punctate keratopathy occurs somewhat more frequently but healing has occurred, without apparent sequelae, following the completion of a course of treatment of dendritic ulcers. Blepharitis has been reported in patients on VIRUPOS eye ointment.

Sensitivity reactions have been reported but are uncommon.

The following have also been reported but may be disease-related: mild hyperaemia, discharge, lid oedema and erythema, epithelial microcysts and conjunctivitis.

Post-marketing

There have been very rare reports of immediate hypersensitivity reactions including angiodema with topical aciclovir

Reporting suspected adverse effects

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after registration of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit-risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

4.9 OVERDOSE

No untoward effects are likely to occur if the entire contents of a tube containing 135 mg of aciclovir were ingested orally.

For information on the management of overdose, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 (Australia).

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES

Aciclovir is a synthetic acyclic purine nucleoside analogue. Its chemical name is 9-((2-hydroxyethoxy) methyl) guanine. It is a white crystalline powder. Each gram of VIRUPOS eye Ointment contains 30 mg of aciclovir in white soft paraffin base (aciclovir 3 per cent).

Mechanism of action

Aciclovir is an antiviral agent which is active *in vitro* against *Herpes simplex* virus (HSV) types I and II. However, the relationship between *in vitro* sensitivity of herpes viruses to aciclovir and clinical response to therapy has yet to be established. Aciclovir needs to be phosphorylated to the active compound, aciclovir triphosphate, in order to become active against the virus. Such conversion is very limited in normal cells and in addition cellular DNA polymerase is not very sensitive to the active compound. However, in infected cells HSV or VZV-coded thymidine kinase facilitates the conversion of aciclovir to aciclovir monophosphate which is then converted to aciclovir triphosphate by cellular enzymes. Aciclovir triphosphate acts as an inhibitor of, and substrate for, the herpes-specified DNA polymerase, preventing further viral DNA synthesis.

Clinical trials

No data available.

5.2 PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTIES

Aciclovir is absorbed through the corneal epithelium and superficial ocular tissues, and achieves

significant concentrations in aqueous humour. Small quantities (2-16% of the applied dose) appear in the urine. In animal studies low levels of aciclovir could be detected in blood after topical application to the eye.

5.3 PRECLINICAL SAFETY DATA

Genotoxicity

No data available.

Carcinogenicity

No data available.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Aciclovir and white soft paraffin base.

6.2 INCOMPATIBILITIES

Incompatibilities were either not assessed or not identified as part of the registration of this medicine.

6.3 SHELF LIFE

In Australia, information on the shelf life can be found on the public summary of the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). The expiry date can be found on the packaging.

Once opened, this medicine should not be used after 4 weeks.

6.4 SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR STORAGE

Store below 25 °C.

6.5 NATURE AND CONTENTS OF CONTAINER

ViruPOS eye ointment is provided in a white aluminium tube with internal epoxy phenol lacquer and white HDPE nozzle with white HDPE cap.

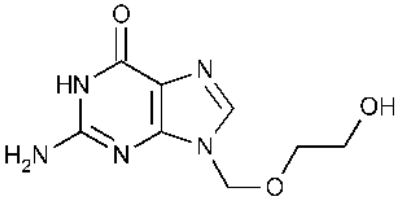
Each tube contains 4.5 g eye ointment.

6.6 SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL

In Australia, any unused medicine or waste material should be disposed of by taking to your local pharmacy.

6.7 PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Chemical structure



CAS number

59277-89-3

7 MEDICINE SCHEDULE (POISONS STANDARD)

Schedule 4

8 SPONSOR

AUSTRALIA

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AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

AFT Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Auckland

VIRUPOS is a trade mark of the AFT Pharmaceuticals Ltd group of companies

9 DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL

11 February 2021

10 DATE OF REVISION

Not applicable