

# FAMCICLOVIR (FAMVIR®)



## How do this medication work?

Famciclovir is an antiviral medication used to treat infections caused by viruses responsible for herpes and shingles. These viruses are a serious risk to those whose immune systems are weak as in the case of people infected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Some people who have HIV and are also at increased risk of herpes take famciclovir to heal more rapidly and lessen the frequency of genital herpes.

Famciclovir does not eliminate the herpes virus. There is always a risk of transmitting herpes and HIV either through sexual or blood contact. Always take the necessary precautions (do not share syringes, always use latex condoms and avoid all sexual contact if lesions are visible).



## What if I forget taking a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and continue with your regular schedule.

However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double up doses.**



## Can I take famciclovir with other medications?

Famciclovir can lessen the effectiveness of several other medications.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, natural product or recreational drug.



[www.guidetherapeutiquevih.com](http://www.guidetherapeutiquevih.com)

## Can I drink alcohol or take drugs if I'm on famciclovir ?

Avoid regular alcohol consumption which may damage your liver, especially if you are a hepatitis carrier. Reasonable consumption should not harm your health.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you take alcohol or drugs.



## What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

The effects of famciclovir on pregnant women are not yet known. Talk to your doctor about taking it if you are or want to become pregnant. Breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.



## How do I take this medication ?

### Famciclovir

< \_\_\_\_ tablet(s) of \_\_\_\_ mg  
< \_\_\_\_ times a day

**Swallow whole.** Do not break, crush or chew.

It is important to take famciclovir regularly, even if you do not feel ill.

Unless you have serious side effects (see section on **side effects**), *never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.*



## What are the side effects of this medication ?

 <p>Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. <b>Continue the medication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain</li> <li>- Headache, dizziness, fatigue</li> </ul>
 <p>See your doctor <b>IMMEDIATELY</b></p>	<p><b>Rash WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raised or swollen skin</li> <li>- Difficulty breathing</li> <li>- Fever</li> </ul>

Inform your doctor and pharmacist of any troublesome side effects. They can help you to manage them.

## Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep famciclovir in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.



## General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and care team, so that your health status can be closely monitored even if you have no symptoms.

