

# ACICLOVIR

SYNONYMS	Acyclovir
BRAND NAME	ACICLOVIR DBL, VIATRIS
DRUG CLASS	Antiviral
AVAILABILITY	Viatrix vial contains 250 mg or 500 mg of aciclovir as aciclovir sodium dihydrate. DBL concentrate vial contains 250 mg/10 mL or 500 mg/20 mL of aciclovir. Also contains sodium hydroxide. The solution is clear and colourless to almost colourless. <sup>1</sup> Each 1 g of aciclovir contains 4.2 mmol of sodium. <sup>2</sup>
pH	Infusion solution: 10–11 <sup>1</sup>
PREPARATION	Viatrix: reconstitute the 250 mg vial with 10 mL of water for injections or sodium chloride 0.9%, or the 500 mg vial with 20 mL of water for injections or sodium chloride 0.9% to make a concentration of 25 mg/mL. <sup>1</sup> DBL and Viatrix: dilute the dose to a maximum concentration of 5 mg/mL with a compatible fluid, i.e. dilute 250 mg (10 mL) to at least 50 mL, or 500 mg (20 mL) to at least 100 mL. Shake to mix thoroughly. <sup>1</sup>
STABILITY	Vial: store below 25 °C. Do not refrigerate. <sup>1</sup> Viatrix reconstituted solution and infusion solution: use immediately. <sup>1</sup> DBL infusion solution: stable for 24 hours below 25 °C. When diluted with glucose 5%, concentrations of 4.5–10 mg/mL are stable for 24 hours below 25 °C and concentrations of 2.5 mg/mL are stable for 6 hours below 25 °C. Do not dilute to less than 2.5 mg/mL with glucose 5%. <sup>1</sup> Do not refrigerate aciclovir solutions. Crystals may form and they do not redissolve at room temperature. <sup>1</sup>
ADMINISTRATION	
<b>IM injection</b>	Contraindicated, highly alkaline. <sup>1</sup>
<b>SUBCUT injection</b>	Contraindicated, highly alkaline. <sup>1</sup>
<b>IV injection</b>	Contraindicated, may cause renal tubular damage. <sup>1</sup>
<b>IV infusion</b>	See PREPARATION. Infuse over at least 1 hour. <sup>1</sup> The 25 mg/mL solution can be infused undiluted over at least 1 hour. Use an infusion pump. <sup>1</sup>
<b>IV use for infants and children</b>	Dilute the dose to 5 mg/mL and infuse over 1 hour. <sup>1</sup> The maximum concentration is 7 mg/mL. More concentrated solutions may cause phlebitis. <sup>3</sup> The 25 mg/mL solution can be infused undiluted into a central venous access device over at least 1 hour. Use a syringe pump. <sup>1,4</sup>
COMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	Sodium chloride 0.9% <sup>1,2</sup> , glucose in sodium chloride solutions <sup>1</sup> , Hartmann's <sup>1</sup> , glucose 5% (see STABILITY) <sup>1,2</sup> , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site <sup>5</sup>
<b>Y-site</b>	At <b>5 mg/mL</b> of aciclovir <sup>2</sup> : amikacin, ampicillin, ceftazolin, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, cefuroxime, clindamycin, dexamethasone, erythromycin, fentanyl, heparin sodium, hydromorphone, imipenem–cilastatin, methylprednisolone sodium succinate, metronidazole, sodium bicarbonate, tobramycin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, vancomycin At <b>7 mg/mL</b> of aciclovir <sup>2</sup> : anidulafungin, ceftaroline, filgrastim, linezolid, remifentanyl, zidovudine At <b>10 mg/mL</b> of aciclovir <sup>2</sup> : defibrotide, fluconazole

## INCOMPATIBILITY

**Fluids** No information

**Drugs** Adrenaline (epinephrine) hydrochloride<sup>6</sup>, amifostine<sup>2</sup>, amiodarone<sup>6</sup>, aztreonam<sup>2</sup>, caffeine citrate<sup>2</sup>, cefepime<sup>6</sup>, ciprofloxacin<sup>6</sup>, daptomycin<sup>6</sup>, dobutamine<sup>2</sup>, dopamine<sup>2</sup>, eptifibatid<sup>6</sup>, esmolol<sup>6</sup>, foscarnet<sup>2</sup>, haloperidol<sup>6</sup>, hydralazine<sup>6</sup>, ketamine<sup>6</sup>, ketorolac<sup>6</sup>, labetalol<sup>6</sup>, lidocaine<sup>6</sup>, methadone<sup>6</sup>, midazolam<sup>6</sup>, mycophenolate mofetil<sup>6</sup>, nicardipine<sup>6</sup>, ondansetron<sup>2</sup>, palonosetron<sup>6</sup>, paracetamol<sup>2</sup>, pentamidine<sup>6</sup>, pethidine<sup>1</sup>, phenylephrine<sup>6</sup>, piperacillin-tazobactam<sup>2</sup>, potassium phosphate<sup>6</sup>, promethazine<sup>6</sup>, sodium nitroprusside<sup>6</sup>, sodium phosphate<sup>6</sup>, tacrolimus<sup>2</sup>, tramadol<sup>2</sup>, vecuronium<sup>6</sup>, verapamil<sup>6</sup>

## SPECIAL NOTES

Extravasation can cause severe local inflammation and tissue necrosis.<sup>1</sup> Monitor the injection site closely. Stop the injection if there is redness or pain.

Ensure the patient is adequately hydrated to minimise renal toxicity.<sup>1</sup>

Anaphylactic reactions have been reported.<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCES

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2. ASHP Injectable drug information 2021. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2021.
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5. Medical information. Plasma-Lyte 148 compatibility summary. Toongabbie, NSW: Baxter; March 2022.
6. Acyclovir. In: IV Index [internet]. Trissel's 2 clinical pharmaceuticals database (parenteral compatibility). Ann Arbor, MI: Merative. Accessed 11/01/2023.