

Valganciclovir Paediatric Information Leaflet

(Valganciclovir suspension 60mg/mL)



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why is your child prescribed valganciclovir?

Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is a common virus. It affects people of all ages, regions and social groups.

If you are pregnant, you can pass the virus to your baby before or during birth. Once a person is infected, the virus stays in the person's body for life. Even though it is not active, it can still be passed on to others.

Before birth:

- A baby can get CMV before it is born. This is called a “congenital (kun-JEN-uh-tul) infection.” This is more common when a woman gets CMV for the first time while she is pregnant.

During or after birth:

- A baby can get CMV during birth as it passes through the birth canal. A baby can also get the infection after birth from breast milk. Congenital CMV, the kind that happens before birth, can cause problems for your baby

Some of the problems that congenital CMV can cause are:

- Hearing loss
- Liver problems
- Problems with blood cells that may make babies bleed too much or too easily
- Breathing problems, like pneumonia
- Developmental problems

Can you treat congenital CMV?

There is no cure for CMV. But it is possible to decrease the risk of problems by starting a medication called Valganciclovir. Valganciclovir is given for up to 6 months to treat problems from CMV and prevent new problems

Patients on valganciclovir require regular blood tests, it is important that your child has blood tests as per the schedule recommended by your doctor

When to give this medicine

Give the valganciclovir exactly as prescribed by your doctor, usually once or twice a day. Taking too much or too little can cause serious problems

Valganciclovir is best given with feeds

DO NOT STOP giving this medicine without your doctor's permission

If you miss a dose

If you miss a dose of this medicine give it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time of the next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular dosing schedule. You should not give two doses at the same time

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on the body that are unwanted. These are called side effects

Call your doctor immediately if your baby has any of these side effects:

- any signs of an infection e.g. sore throat, fever, chills, cough
- unusual or unexplained bleeding or bruising
- if your baby is very sleepy
- allergic reaction e.g. itching or hives, swelling of the face, hands, throat or shortness of breath

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice these side effects:

- diarrhoea, vomiting, poor feeding
- shaking or tremors

This list of side effects is not complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of concern to you.

Other Medicines:

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are giving your child any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines that you can buy without a prescription. Some other medicines may interact with valganciclovir and are best avoided, check with your health professional before giving any new medication

Storage:

- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children

- Keep in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight
- Store the medication in the original container i.e. in the container that was supplied by your pharmacist

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.

Valganciclovir is classed as a cytotoxic medication

In case of accidental exposure, this is what you should do:

Route of exposure	What to do
Direct contact via skin, eye or mucous membrane	<p>Wash the area of contact thoroughly, with plenty of water.</p> <p>Seek medical attention if there is any irritation over the area</p>
Accidental spillage	<p>Wear a pair of gloves and cover the area with paper towels.</p> <p>Wipe the area with water then clean with household cleaner and water.</p> <p>Remove all contaminated clothing immediately and blot dry with paper towels. Wash separately from other laundry</p>
Contamination of surfaces with child’s vomitus, faeces and urine	<p>Wear a pair of gloves and cover the area with paper towels.</p> <p>Wipe the area with water then clean with household cleaner and water.</p> <p>Remove all contaminated clothing immediately and blot dry with paper towels. Wash separately from other laundry.</p> <p>Double-bag all used paper towels before disposing it with the household waste.</p> <p>Used nappies should be double-bagged before disposal as well.</p> <p>Wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning up the contaminated surfaces</p>

