

ACICLOVIR

SYNONYMS	Acyclovir
BRAND NAME	ACICLOVIR ACCORD, DBL, VIATRIS
DRUG CLASS	Antiviral
AVAILABILITY	<p>Viatis vial contains 250 mg or 500 mg of aciclovir as aciclovir sodium.</p> <p>Accord and DBL concentrate vial contains 250 mg/10 mL or 500 mg/20 mL of aciclovir as aciclovir sodium. Also contains sodium hydroxide. Accord also contains hydrochloric acid. The solution is clear and colourless to almost colourless.¹</p> <p>Each 1 g of aciclovir contains 4.2 mmol of sodium.²</p>
pH	Infusion solution: 10–11 ¹
PREPARATION	<p>Viatis: 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.¹</p> <p>All products: 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.¹</p>
STABILITY	<p>Vial: store below 25 °C. Do not refrigerate.¹</p> <p>Viatis reconstituted solution and infusion solution: use immediately.¹</p> <p>Accord infusion solution: use immediately.¹</p> <p>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%.¹</p> <p>Do not refrigerate aciclovir solutions. Crystals may form and they do not redissolve at room temperature.¹</p>
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Contraindicated, highly alkaline. ¹
SUBCUT injection	Contraindicated, highly alkaline. ¹
IV injection	Contraindicated, may cause renal tubular damage. ¹
IV infusion	<p>See PREPARATION. Infuse over at least 1 hour.¹</p> <p>The 25 mg/mL solution can be infused undiluted into a central venous access device over at least 1 hour. Use an infusion pump.¹</p>
IV use for infants and children	<p>Dilute the dose to 5 mg/mL and infuse over 1 hour.¹ The maximum concentration is 7 mg/mL. More concentrated solutions may cause phlebitis.³</p> <p>The 25 mg/mL solution can be infused undiluted into a central venous access device over at least 1 hour. Use a syringe pump.^{1,4}</p>
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Sodium chloride 0.9% ^{1,2} , glucose in sodium chloride solutions ¹ , Hartmann's ¹ , glucose 5% (see STABILITY) ^{1,2} , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site ⁵
Y-site	<p>At 5 mg/mL of aciclovir²: amikacin, ampicillin, cefazolin, cefotaxime, cefoxitin, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, cefuroxime, clindamycin, dexamethasone, erythromycin, fentanyl, heparin sodium, hydromorphone, imipenem–cilastatin, methylprednisolone sodium succinate, metronidazole, sodium bicarbonate, tobramycin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, vancomycin</p> <p>At 7 mg/mL of aciclovir²: anidulafungin, ceftaroline, filgrastim, linezolid, remifentanyl, zidovudine</p> <p>At 10 mg/mL of aciclovir²: defibrotide, fluconazole</p>

INCOMPATIBILITY**Fluids** No information

Drugs Adrenaline (epinephrine) hydrochloride⁶, amifostine², amiodarone⁶, aztreonam², caffeine citrate², cefepime⁶, ciprofloxacin⁶, daptomycin⁶, dobutamine², dopamine², eptifibatide⁶, esmolol⁶, foscarnet², haloperidol⁶, hydralazine⁶, ketamine⁶, ketorolac⁶, labetalol⁶, lidocaine⁶, methadone⁷, midazolam⁶, mycophenolate mofetil⁶, nicardipine⁶, ondansetron², palonosetron⁶, paracetamol², pentamidine⁶, pethidine¹, phenylephrine⁶, piperacillin-tazobactam², potassium phosphate⁶, promethazine⁶, sodium nitroprusside⁶, sodium phosphate⁶, tacrolimus², tramadol², vecuronium⁶, verapamil⁶

SPECIAL NOTES

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

Ensure the patient is adequately hydrated to minimise renal toxicity.¹

Anaphylactic reactions have been reported.¹

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 28/03/2025.
2. ASHP Injectable drug information 2021. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2021.
3. Phelps SJ, Hagemann TM, Lee KR, Thompson AJ. Pediatric injectable drugs. The teddy bear book. 11th ed. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2018.
4. Paediatric Formulary Committee. BNF for children. London: BMJ group and Pharmaceutical Press; 2022–2023.
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.

VERSION

9.3