

**VALCIVIR 450 MG FILM COATED TABLET***Valganciclovir (450mg)***What is in this leaflet**

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**What Valcivir is used for**

Valcivir is used to treat cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis (an eye infection caused by a type of herpes virus) in acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) patients as it can cause blindness if untreated.

Valcivir is also used to prevent CMV disease in patients who are not infected with CMV but received organ transplantation from a CMV infected donor.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Valcivir has been prescribed for you.

Valcivir is not addictive.

Valcivir is available only with a doctor's prescription

**How Valcivir works**

Valcivir contains the active ingredient valganciclovir hydrochloride.

Valcivir belongs to a class of medicines used to prevent the growth of viruses.

Valcivir acts against a virus called cytomegalovirus or CMV (a type of herpes virus). It prevents this virus from growing and multiplying in the body. CMV causes infections, mainly in people with poor immunity. Poor immunity can be caused by HIV/AIDS or by

medications taken after an organ transplant.

**Before you use Valcivir**When you must not use it

Do not use Valcivir if:

1. You are allergic to:
    - valganciclovir, acyclovir, ganciclovir, valaciclovir or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:
- shortness of breath
  - wheezing or difficulty in breathing
  - swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
  - rashes, itching, hives on the skin

2. You have very low blood counts for platelets (used for clotting), neutrophils (a type of white blood cell used as defence against infections), haemoglobin (an oxygen carrying substance in the blood)

3. The packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering

4. The expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed. If you use this medicine after that expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

If you are not sure if you should start taking Valcivir, contact your doctor.

Your doctor will advise you whether Valcivir is suitable to be used in children as there is limited information on the effectiveness and safety of the use of Valcivir in children.

Before you start to use it

You must tell your doctor if:

1. You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Valcivir is not recommended to be used during pregnancy as it may cause harm to your

developing baby if taken during pregnancy.

2. You are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known whether Valcivir passes into the breast milk. Valcivir is not recommended for use if you are breastfeeding. Your doctor will assess the risks and benefits of you taking Valcivir if you are breastfeeding.
3. You have any other health problems, particularly: you have low blood counts for platelets (thrombocytopenia), neutrophils (neutropenia) and haemoglobin (anemia).
4. You have any allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you start taking Valcivir.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription, from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with Valcivir. These include:

- probenecid, a medicine used to treat gout
- zidovudine and didanosine, medicines used to treat HIV infections
- imipenem/cilastatin, a combination of medicines used to treat some infections
- mycophenolate mofetil, a medicine used to prevent organ rejection after a transplant
- medicines for the treatment of cancer, such as hydroxyurea, vincristine, adriamycin
- anti-infective agents such as dapsone, flucytosine, pentamidine, amphotericin B
- other medicines for the treatment of HIV or HIV-related infections,

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such as nucleoside analogues (lamivudine, stavudine, zalcitabine, abacavir, lamivudine/zidovudine or combination abacavir/lamivudine/zidovudine)

These medicines may be affected by Valcivir, or may affect how well it works. You may need to take different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Valcivir.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about this list of medicines.

## How to use Valcivir

### How much to use

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

Take Valcivir exactly as your doctor has prescribed.

### - **Induction treatment for active CMV patients (treatment of CMV retinitis in AIDS patients)**

The normal dose is 900mg (two 450mg tablets) twice daily with food for 21 days.

### - **Maintenance treatment (after induction treatment or for inactive CMV patients)**

The normal dose is 900mg (two 450mg tablets) once daily with food.

### - **Prevention of CMV disease in transplantation**

The normal dose is 900mg (two 450mg tablets) once daily with food, starting within 10 days of your organ transplant until 100 days after the organ transplant.

If you have had a kidney transplant, the normal dose is 900mg (two 450mg tablets) once daily with food, starting within 10 days of your organ transplant until 200 days after the organ transplant.

Your dose may have to be reduced or stopped if you have or develop low blood counts, if you have kidney disease or if you are over 65 years of age.

Take Valcivir exactly as your doctor has prescribed.

### When to use it

Valcivir should be swallowed whole with a glass of water and do not chew the tablets.

Valcivir should be taken during or immediately after a meal. If you take Valcivir on an empty stomach it may not work.

Valcivir should be taken at the same time every day. This will give you the best effect and will help you remember when to take the tablets every day.

If you are not sure when to take Valcivir, ask your doctor.

### How long to use it

Continue taking your Valcivir tablets until your doctor tells you to stop.

### If you forget to use it

Do not try to make up for missed doses by taking an extra dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take the next dose when you are meant to.

If you have missed several doses, please inform your doctor and follow the advice given to you.

### If you use too much (overdose)

You may need urgent medical attention. Contact your doctor or visit

the nearest Accident & Emergency Department immediately (bring along the medication, carton and this leaflet if possible). Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

## While you are using it

### Things you must do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Valcivir.

You must use a barrier contraceptive while taking Valcivir and for 90 days after stopping treatment.

If you become pregnant while taking Valcivir, tell your doctor immediately. Valcivir can cause birth defects (serious harm to unborn babies).

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed. Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your CMV disease, blood cell counts or any other potential side effects may be monitored regularly.

Low blood cell counts may reduce your ability to fight infections or for your blood to clot effectively. If left undetected, it may lead to the development of serious illness or death.

If you have a CMV eye infection, you should also see your doctor regularly to monitor the condition of your retina (part of our eye).

### Things you must not do

Do not stop taking Valcivir or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

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Do not let yourself run out of medicine over the weekend or on holidays.

Do not give Valcivir to anyone else even if their symptoms seem similar to yours or they have the same condition as you.

Do not take any other medicines whether they require prescriptions or not without first consulting with your doctor or a pharmacist.

Do not break or crush Valcivir tablets when handling them. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water if you touch crushed or broken tablets. If any powder from the tablet gets into your eyes, wash your eyes thoroughly with water. Be very careful when handling Valcivir tablets.

## Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Valcivir affects you. Valcivir may cause drowsiness, dizziness, confusion or seizures (fits) in some people and may therefore affect alertness.

## **Side effects**

Valcivir helps most people with CMV infections, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. Your doctor has weighed the risks of using this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- diarrhoea
- vomiting
- nausea (feeling like you want to vomit)
- fever or increased temperature sensitivity
- dizziness or headache
- looking pale

These are the more common side effects of Valcivir. Your doctor may advise to change the dose of Valcivir that you are taking if you experience any of the above side effects.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following side effects:

- skin rash
- abdominal pain
- cough
- fatigue (tiredness)
- oral thrush (sore, creamy yellow raised patches in the mouth)
- insomnia (inability to sleep)
- worsening of eyesight

Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency centre if you notice any of the following:

- confusion
- fits
- agitation
- thinking, hearing or seeing things that are not real
- unexplained bruising or bleeding
- signs of infection such as fever, chills, mouth ulcers or sore throat
- swelling of the tongue, lips or throat

These may be serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.

You may report any side effects of adverse drug reactions directly to the National Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring by visiting the website [npra.gov.my](http://npra.gov.my) [Consumers - >Reporting Side Effects to Medicines (ConSERF) or Vaccines (AEFI)].

## **Storage and Disposal of Valcivir**

### Storage

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

Store below 30°C.

Store the medicine in its bottle until you need to take it.

Tablets should not be broken or crushed. Avoid direct contact of broken or crushed tablets with skin or mucous membrane. If such contact occurs, wash thoroughly with soap and water; rinse your eyes thoroughly with water.

### Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking Valcivir, or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.

Medicine should not be disposed of via wastewater and disposal through household waste should be avoided.

## **Product Description**

### What it looks like

Pink coloured, capsule shaped biconvex film coated tablet plain on both sides.

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Valganciclovir (450mg)

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## Ingredients

### **Active ingredient**

Valganciclovir Hydrochloride  
450mg

### **Inactive ingredients**

- Microcrystalline Cellulose (Avicel PH101)
- Crospovidone (Kollidon CLM)
- Povidone (PVP K-30)
- Stearic acid (Powder Form)

The tablets are coated with a film coating (Opadry Pink 04F54165) which contains:

- HPMC 2910 / Hypromellose
- Titanium Dioxide
- Macrogol / PEG
- Iron Oxide Red

## MAL number

XXXXXX

## **Manufacturer**

### **Cipla Limited**

Plot No. A-2, A-33, & A-37/2/2,  
MIDC, Patalganga,  
Raigad-410 220,  
Maharashtra State, India.

## **Product Registration Holder**

### **CIPLA MALAYSIA SDN BHD**

Suite 1101, Amcorp Tower  
Amcorp Trade Centre  
18, Persiaran Barat, 46050  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

## **Date of Revision**

16/02/2022

## **Serial Number**

NPRA (R2) 21/179