

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use FAMVIR® safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for FAMVIR.

FAMVIR (famciclovir) tablets  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1994

**RECENT MAJOR CHANGES**

Indications and Usage (1.3) 01/2011

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

FAMVIR, a prodrug of penciclovir, is a nucleoside analog DNA polymerase inhibitor indicated for:

**Immunocompetent Adult Patients (1.1)**

- Herpes labialis (cold sores)
  - Treatment of recurrent episodes
- Genital herpes
  - Treatment of recurrent episodes
  - Suppressive therapy of recurrent episodes
- Herpes zoster (shingles)

**HIV-Infected Adult Patients (1.2)**

- Treatment of recurrent episodes of orolabial or genital herpes

**Limitation of Use (1.3)**

The efficacy and safety of FAMVIR have not been established for:

- Patients <18 years of age
- Immunocompromised patients other than for the treatment of recurrent episodes of orolabial or genital herpes in HIV-infected patients
- Black and African American patients with recurrent genital herpes

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Immunocompetent Adult Patients (2.1)	
Herpes labialis (cold sores)	1500 mg as a single dose
Genital herpes	
Treatment of recurrent episodes	1000 mg twice daily for 1 day
Suppressive therapy	250 mg twice daily
Herpes zoster (shingles)	500 mg every 8 hours for 7 days

Patients with renal impairment: Adjust dose based on creatinine clearance. (2.3)

HIV-Infected Adult Patients (2.2)	
Recurrent episodes of orolabial or genital herpes	500 mg twice daily for 7 days

**DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

Tablets: 125 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg (3)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Known hypersensitivity to the product, its components, or Denavir® (penciclovir cream). (4)

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

Acute renal failure: May occur in patients with underlying renal disease who receive higher than recommended doses of FAMVIR for their level of renal function. Reduce dosage in patients with renal impairment. (2.3, 8.6)

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The most common adverse events reported in at least one indication by >10% of adult patients are headache and nausea. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1-888-669-6682 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

Probenecid: May increase penciclovir levels. Monitor for evidence of penciclovir toxicity. (7.2)

**USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

Nursing mothers: FAMVIR should not be used in nursing mothers unless the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks associated with treatment. (8.3)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

Revised: 01/2011

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## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

#### 1.1 Immunocompetent Adult Patients

Herpes labialis (cold sores): FAMVIR is indicated for the treatment of recurrent herpes labialis.

Genital herpes:

*Recurrent episodes:* FAMVIR is indicated for the treatment of recurrent episodes of genital herpes. The efficacy of FAMVIR when initiated more than 6 hours after onset of symptoms or lesions has not been established.

*Suppressive therapy:* FAMVIR is indicated for chronic suppressive therapy of recurrent episodes of genital herpes. The efficacy and safety of FAMVIR for the suppression of recurrent genital herpes beyond 1 year have not been established.

Herpes zoster (shingles): FAMVIR is indicated for the treatment of herpes zoster. The efficacy of FAMVIR when initiated more than 72 hours after onset of rash has not been established.

#### 1.2 HIV-Infected Adult Patients

Recurrent orolabial or genital herpes: FAMVIR is indicated for the treatment of recurrent episodes of orolabial or genital herpes in HIV-infected adults. The efficacy of FAMVIR when initiated more than 48 hours after onset of symptoms or lesions has not been established.

#### 1.3 Limitation of Use

The efficacy and safety of FAMVIR have not been established for:

- Patients <18 years of age
- Patients with first episode of genital herpes
- Patients with ophthalmic zoster
- Immunocompromised patients other than for the treatment of recurrent orolabial or genital herpes in HIV-infected patients
- Black and African American patients with recurrent genital herpes

### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

FAMVIR may be taken with or without food.

#### 2.1 Dosing Recommendation in Immunocompetent Adult Patients

Herpes labialis (cold sores): The recommended dosage of FAMVIR for the treatment of recurrent herpes labialis is 1500 mg as a single dose. Therapy should be initiated at the first sign or symptom of herpes labialis (e.g., tingling, itching, burning, pain, or lesion).

Genital herpes:

*Recurrent episodes:* The recommended dosage of FAMVIR for the treatment of recurrent episodes of genital herpes is 1000 mg twice daily for 1 day. Therapy should be initiated at the first sign or symptom of a recurrent episode (e.g., tingling, itching, burning, pain, or lesion).

*Suppressive therapy:* The recommended dosage of FAMVIR for chronic suppressive therapy of recurrent episodes of genital herpes is 250 mg twice daily.

Herpes zoster (shingles): The recommended dosage of FAMVIR for the treatment of herpes zoster is 500 mg every 8 hours for 7 days. Therapy should be initiated as soon as herpes zoster is diagnosed.

#### 2.2 Dosing Recommendation in HIV-Infected Adult Patients

Recurrent orolabial or genital herpes: The recommended dosage of FAMVIR for the treatment of recurrent orolabial or genital herpes in HIV-infected patients is 500 mg twice daily for 7 days. Therapy should be initiated at the first sign or symptom of a recurrent episode (e.g., tingling, itching, burning, pain, or lesion).

#### 2.3 Dosing Recommendation in Patients with Renal Impairment

Dosage recommendations for adult patients with renal impairment are provided in Table 1 [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.6), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

Reference ID: 2898708

**Table 1 Dosage Recommendations for Adult Patients with Renal Impairment**

Indication and Normal Dosage Regimen	Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Adjusted Dosage Regimen Dose (mg)	Dosing Interval
<u>Single-Day Dosing Regimens</u>			
Recurrent Genital Herpes 1000 mg every 12 hours for 1 day	≥60	1000	every 12 hours for 1 day
	40-59	500	every 12 hours for 1 day
	20-39	500	single dose
	<20	250	single dose
	HD*	250	single dose following dialysis
Recurrent Herpes Labialis 1500 mg single dose	≥60	1500	single dose
	40-59	750	single dose
	20-39	500	single dose
	<20	250	single dose
	HD*	250	single dose following dialysis
<u>Multiple-Day Dosing Regimens</u>			
Herpes Zoster 500 mg every 8 hours	≥60	500	every 8 hours
	40-59	500	every 12 hours
	20-39	500	every 24 hours
	<20	250	every 24 hours
	HD*	250	following each dialysis
Suppression of Recurrent Genital Herpes 250 mg every 12 hours	≥40	250	every 12 hours
	20-39	125	every 12 hours
	<20	125	every 24 hours
	HD*	125	following each dialysis
Recurrent Orolabial or Genital Herpes in HIV-Infected Patients 500 mg every 12 hours	≥40	500	every 12 hours
	20-39	500	every 24 hours
	<20	250	every 24 hours
	HD*	250	following each dialysis

\*Hemodialysis

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

FAMVIR tablets are available in three strengths:

- 125 mg: White, round film-coated, biconvex, beveled edges, debossed with “FAMVIR” on one side and “125” on the other side
- 250 mg: White, round film-coated, biconvex, beveled edges, debossed with “FAMVIR” on one side and “250” on the other side
- 500 mg: White, oval film-coated, biconvex, debossed with “FAMVIR” on one side and “500” on the other side

**4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

FAMVIR is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to the product, its components, or Denavir<sup>®</sup> (penciclovir cream).

## 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

**Acute renal failure:** Cases of acute renal failure have been reported in patients with underlying renal disease who have received inappropriately high doses of FAMVIR for their level of renal function. Dosage reduction is recommended when administering FAMVIR to patients with renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*, *Use in Specific Populations (8.6)*].

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

Acute renal failure is discussed in greater detail in other sections of the label [see *Warnings and Precautions (5)*].

The most common adverse events reported in at least 1 indication by >10% of adult patients treated with FAMVIR are headache and nausea.

### 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience in Adult Patients

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared with rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

**Immunocompetent patients:** The safety of FAMVIR has been evaluated in active- and placebo-controlled clinical studies involving 816 FAMVIR-treated patients with herpes zoster (FAMVIR, 250 mg three times daily to 750 mg three times daily); 163 FAMVIR-treated patients with recurrent genital herpes (FAMVIR, 1000 mg twice daily); 1,197 patients with recurrent genital herpes treated with FAMVIR as suppressive therapy (125 mg once daily to 250 mg three times daily) of which 570 patients received FAMVIR (open-labeled and/or double-blind) for at least 10 months; and 447 FAMVIR-treated patients with herpes labialis (FAMVIR, 1500 mg once daily or 750 mg twice daily). Table 2 lists selected adverse events.

**Table 2 Selected Adverse Events (all grades and without regard to causality) Reported by ≥ 2% of Patients in Placebo-Controlled Famvir Trials\***

Events	Incidence							
	Herpes Zoster <sup>†</sup>		Recurrent Genital Herpes <sup>‡</sup>		Genital Herpes-Suppression <sup>§</sup>		Herpes Labialis <sup>‡</sup>	
	Famvir (n=273) %	Placebo (n=146) %	Famvir (n=163) %	Placebo (n=166) %	Famvir (n=458) %	Placebo (n=63) %	Famvir (n=447) %	Placebo (n=254) %
<b>Nervous System</b>								
Headache	22.7	17.8	13.5	5.4	39.3	42.9	8.5	6.7
Paresthesia	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Migraine	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	3.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>								
Nausea	12.5	11.6	2.5	3.6	7.2	9.5	2.2	3.9
Diarrhea	7.7	4.8	4.9	1.2	9.0	9.5	1.6	0.8
Vomiting	4.8	3.4	1.2	0.6	3.1	1.6	0.7	0.0
Flatulence	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.0	4.8	1.6	0.2	0.0
Abdominal Pain	1.1	3.4	0.0	1.2	7.9	7.9	0.2	0.4
<b>Body as a Whole</b>								
Fatigue	4.4	3.4	0.6	0.0	4.8	3.2	1.6	0.4
<b>Skin and Appendages</b>								
Pruritus	3.7	2.7	0.0	0.6	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rash	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	3.3	1.6	0.0	0.0
<b>Reproductive (Female)</b>								
Dysmenorrhea	0.0	0.7	1.8	0.6	7.6	6.3	0.4	0.0

\*Patients may have entered into more than one clinical trial.

<sup>†</sup>7 days of treatment

<sup>‡</sup>1 day of treatment

<sup>§</sup>daily treatment

Reference ID: 2898708

Table 3 lists selected laboratory abnormalities in genital herpes suppression trials.

**Table 3 Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in Genital Herpes Suppression Studies\***

Parameter	Famvir (n = 660) <sup>†</sup> %	Placebo (n = 210) <sup>†</sup> %
Anemia (<0.8 x NRL)	0.1	0.0
Leukopenia (<0.75 x NRL)	1.3	0.9
Neutropenia (<0.8 x NRL)	3.2	1.5
AST (SGOT) (>2 x NRH)	2.3	1.2
ALT (SGPT) (>2 x NRH)	3.2	1.5
Total Bilirubin (>1.5 x NRH)	1.9	1.2
Serum Creatinine (>1.5 x NRH)	0.2	0.3
Amylase (>1.5 x NRH)	1.5	1.9
Lipase (>1.5 x NRH)	4.9	4.7

\*Percentage of patients with laboratory abnormalities that were increased or decreased from baseline and were outside of specified ranges.

<sup>†</sup>n values represent the minimum number of patients assessed for each laboratory parameter.

NRH = Normal Range High.

NRL = Normal Range Low.

**HIV-infected patients:** In HIV-infected patients, the most frequently reported adverse events for FAMVIR (500 mg twice daily; n=150) and acyclovir (400 mg, 5x/day; n=143), respectively, were headache (17% vs. 15%), nausea (11% vs. 13%), diarrhea (7% vs. 11%), vomiting (5% vs. 4%), fatigue (4% vs. 2%), and abdominal pain (3% vs. 6%).

## 6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The adverse events listed below have been reported during post-approval use of FAMVIR. Because these events are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure:

*Blood and lymphatic system disorders:* Thrombocytopenia

*Hepatobiliary disorders:* Abnormal liver function tests, cholestatic jaundice

*Nervous system disorders:* Dizziness, somnolence

*Psychiatric disorders:* Confusion (including delirium, disorientation, and confusional state occurring predominantly in the elderly), hallucinations

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:* Urticaria, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

### 7.1 Potential for FAMVIR to Affect Other Drugs

The steady-state pharmacokinetics of digoxin were not altered by concomitant administration of multiple doses of famciclovir (500 mg three times daily). No clinically significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of zidovudine, its metabolite zidovudine glucuronide, or emtricitabine was observed following a single oral dose of 500 mg famciclovir co-administered with zidovudine or emtricitabine.

An *in vitro* study using human liver microsomes suggests that famciclovir is not an inhibitor of CYP3A4 enzymes.

### 7.2 Potential for Other Drugs to Affect Penciclovir

No clinically significant alterations in penciclovir pharmacokinetics were observed following single-dose administration of 500 mg famciclovir after pre-treatment with multiple doses of allopurinol, cimetidine, theophylline, zidovudine, promethazine, when given shortly after an antacid (magnesium and aluminum hydroxide), or concomitantly with emtricitabine. No clinically significant effect on penciclovir pharmacokinetics was observed following multiple-dose (three times daily) administration of famciclovir (500 mg) with multiple doses of digoxin.

Concurrent use with probenecid or other drugs significantly eliminated by active renal tubular secretion may result in increased plasma concentrations of penciclovir.

The conversion of 6-deoxy penciclovir to penciclovir is catalyzed by aldehyde oxidase. Interactions with other drugs metabolized by this enzyme and/or inhibiting this enzyme could potentially occur. Clinical interaction studies of famciclovir with cimetidine and promethazine, *in vitro* inhibitors of aldehyde oxidase, did not show relevant effects on the formation of penciclovir. Raloxifene, a potent aldehyde oxidase inhibitor *in vitro*, could decrease the formation of penciclovir. However, a clinical drug-drug interaction study to determine the magnitude of interaction between penciclovir and raloxifene has not been conducted.

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

*Pregnancy category B.* After oral administration, famciclovir (prodrug) is converted to penciclovir (active drug). There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of famciclovir or penciclovir use in pregnant women. No adverse effects on embryofetal development were observed in animal reproduction studies using famciclovir and penciclovir at doses higher than the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) and human exposure. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, famciclovir should be used during pregnancy only if needed.

In animal reproduction studies, pregnant rats and rabbits received oral famciclovir at doses (up to 1000 mg/kg/day) that provided 2.7 to 10.8 times (rats) and 1.4 to 5.4 times (rabbits) the human systemic exposure based on AUC. No adverse effects were observed on embryo-fetal development. In other studies, pregnant rats and rabbits received intravenous famciclovir at doses (360 mg/kg/day) 1.5 to 6 times (rats) and (120 mg/kg/day) 1.1 to 4.5 times (rabbits) or penciclovir at doses (80 mg/kg/day) 0.3 to 1.3 times (rats) and (60 mg/kg/day) 0.5 to 2.1 times (rabbits) the MRHD based on body surface area comparisons. No adverse effects were observed on embryo-fetal development.

*Pregnancy exposure reporting.* To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to FAMVIR, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation maintains a FAMVIR Pregnancy Reporting system. Physicians are encouraged to report their patients by calling 1-888-NOW-NOVA (669-6682).

### 8.3 Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether famciclovir (prodrug) or penciclovir (active drug) are excreted in human milk. Following oral administration of famciclovir to lactating rats, penciclovir was excreted in breast milk at concentrations higher than those seen in the plasma. There are no data on the safety of FAMVIR in infants. FAMVIR should not be used in nursing mothers unless the potential benefits are considered to outweigh the potential risks associated with treatment.

### 8.4 Pediatric Use

The efficacy and safety of FAMVIR tablets have not been established in pediatric patients. The pharmacokinetic profile and safety of famciclovir experimental granules mixed with OraSweet<sup>®</sup> were studied in two open-label studies.

Study 1 was a single-dose pharmacokinetic and safety study in infants 1 month to <1 year of age who had an active herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection or who were at risk for HSV infection. Eighteen subjects were enrolled and received a single dose of famciclovir experimental granules mixed with OraSweet<sup>®</sup> based on the patient's body weight (doses ranged from 25 mg to 175 mg). These doses were selected to provide penciclovir systemic exposures similar to the penciclovir systemic exposures observed in adults after administration of 500 mg famciclovir. The efficacy and safety of famciclovir have not been established as suppressive therapy in infants following neonatal HSV infections. In addition, the efficacy cannot be extrapolated from adults to infants because there is no similar disease in adults. Therefore, famciclovir is not recommended in infants.

Study 2 was an open-label, single-dose pharmacokinetic, multiple-dose safety study of famciclovir experimental granules mixed with OraSweet<sup>®</sup> in children 1 to <12 years of age with clinically suspected HSV or varicella zoster virus (VZV) infection. Fifty-one subjects were enrolled in the pharmacokinetic part of the study and received a single body weight adjusted dose of famciclovir (doses ranged from 125 mg to 500 mg). These doses were selected to provide penciclovir systemic exposures similar to the penciclovir systemic exposures observed in adults after administration of 500 mg famciclovir. Based on the pharmacokinetic data observed with these doses in children, a new weight-based dosing algorithm was designed and used in the multiple-dose safety part of the study. Pharmacokinetic data were not obtained with the revised weight-based dosing algorithm.

A total of 100 patients were enrolled in the multiple-dose safety part of the study; 47 subjects with active or latent HSV infection and 53 subjects with chickenpox. Patients with active or latent HSV infection received famciclovir twice a day for seven days. The daily dose of famciclovir ranged from 150 mg to 500 mg twice daily depending on the patient's body weight. Patients with chickenpox received famciclovir three times daily for seven days. The daily dose of famciclovir ranged from 150 mg to 500 mg three times daily depending on the patient's body weight. The clinical adverse events and laboratory test abnormalities observed in this study were similar to these seen in adults. The available data are insufficient

to support the use of famciclovir for the treatment of children with chickenpox or infections due to HSV for the following reasons:

*Chickenpox:* The efficacy of famciclovir for the treatment of chickenpox has not been established in either pediatric or adult patients. Famciclovir is approved for the treatment of herpes zoster in adult patients. However, extrapolation of efficacy data from adults with herpes zoster to children with chickenpox would not be appropriate. Although chickenpox and herpes zoster are caused by the same virus, the diseases are different.

*Genital herpes:* Clinical information on genital herpes in children is limited. Therefore, efficacy data from adults cannot be extrapolated to this population. Further, famciclovir has not been studied in children 1 to <12 years of age with recurrent genital herpes. None of the children in Study 2 had genital herpes.

*Herpes labialis:* There are no pharmacokinetic and safety data in children to support a famciclovir dose that provides penciclovir systemic exposures comparable to the penciclovir systemic exposures in adults after a single dose administration of 1500 mg.

## 8.5 Geriatric Use

Of 816 patients with herpes zoster in clinical studies who were treated with FAMVIR, 248 (30.4%) were  $\geq 65$  years of age and 103 (13%) were  $\geq 75$  years of age. No overall differences were observed in the incidence or types of adverse events between younger and older patients. Of 610 patients with recurrent herpes simplex (type 1 or type 2) in clinical studies who were treated with FAMVIR, 26 (4.3%) were  $> 65$  years of age and 7 (1.1%) were  $> 75$  years of age. Clinical studies of FAMVIR in patients with recurrent genital herpes did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently compared to younger subjects.

No famciclovir dosage adjustment based on age is recommended unless renal function is impaired [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*]. In general, appropriate caution should be exercised in the administration and monitoring of FAMVIR in elderly patients reflecting the greater frequency of decreased renal function and concomitant use of other drugs.

## 8.6 Patients with Renal Impairment

Apparent plasma clearance, renal clearance, and the plasma-elimination rate constant of penciclovir decreased linearly with reductions in renal function. After the administration of a single 500 mg famciclovir oral dose (n=27) to healthy volunteers and to volunteers with varying degrees of renal impairment ( $CL_{CR}$  ranged from 6.4 to 138.8 mL/min), the following results were obtained (Table 4):

**Table 4 Pharmacokinetic Parameters of Penciclovir in Subjects with Different Degrees of Renal Impairment**

Parameter (mean $\pm$ S.D.)	$CL_{CR} \uparrow \geq 60$ (mL/min) (n=15)	$CL_{CR}$ 40-59 (mL/min) (n=5)	$CL_{CR}$ 20-39 (mL/min) (n=4)	$CL_{CR} < 20$ (mL/min) (n=3)
$CL_{CR}$ (mL/min)	88.1 $\pm$ 20.6	49.3 $\pm$ 5.9	26.5 $\pm$ 5.3	12.7 $\pm$ 5.9
$CL_R$ (L/hr)	30.1 $\pm$ 10.6	13.0 $\pm$ 1.3 <sup>‡</sup>	4.2 $\pm$ 0.9	1.6 $\pm$ 1.0
$CL/F^{\S}$ (L/hr)	66.9 $\pm$ 27.5	27.3 $\pm$ 2.8	12.8 $\pm$ 1.3	5.8 $\pm$ 2.8
Half-life (hr)	2.3 $\pm$ 0.5	3.4 $\pm$ 0.7	6.2 $\pm$ 1.6	13.4 $\pm$ 10.2

<sup>†</sup>  $CL_{CR}$  is measured creatinine clearance.

<sup>‡</sup> n=4.

<sup>§</sup>  $CL/F$  consists of bioavailability factor and famciclovir to penciclovir conversion factor.

In a multiple-dose study of famciclovir conducted in subjects with varying degrees of renal impairment (n=18), the pharmacokinetics of penciclovir were comparable to those after single doses.

A dosage adjustment is recommended for patients with renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*].

## 8.7 Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Well-compensated chronic liver disease (chronic hepatitis [n=6], chronic ethanol abuse [n=8], or primary biliary cirrhosis [n=1]) had no effect on the extent of availability (AUC) of penciclovir following a single dose of 500 mg famciclovir. However, there was a 44% decrease in penciclovir mean maximum plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) and the time to maximum plasma concentration ( $T_{max}$ ) was increased by 0.75 hours in patients with hepatic impairment compared to normal

volunteers. No dosage adjustment is recommended for patients with well compensated hepatic impairment. The pharmacokinetics of penciclovir have not been evaluated in patients with severe uncompensated hepatic impairment.

## 8.8 Black and African American Patients

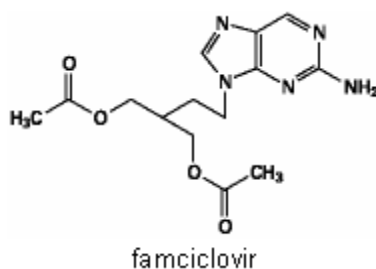
In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial conducted in 304 immunocompetent Black and African American adults with recurrent genital herpes there was no difference in median time to healing between patients receiving FAMVIR or placebo. In general, the adverse reaction profile was similar to that observed in other FAMVIR clinical trials for adult patients [see *Adverse Reactions* (6.1)]. The relevance of these study results to other indications in Black and African American patients is unknown [see *Clinical Studies* (14.2)].

## 10 OVERDOSAGE

Appropriate symptomatic and supportive therapy should be given. Penciclovir is removed by hemodialysis.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

The active ingredient in FAMVIR tablets is famciclovir, an orally administered prodrug of the antiviral agent penciclovir. Chemically, famciclovir is known as 2-[2-(2-amino-9H-purin-9-yl)ethyl]-1,3-propanediol diacetate. Its molecular formula is  $C_{14}H_{19}N_5O_4$ ; its molecular weight is 321.3. It is a synthetic acyclic guanine derivative and has the following structure



Famciclovir is a white to pale yellow solid. It is freely soluble in acetone and methanol, and sparingly soluble in ethanol and isopropanol. At 25°C famciclovir is freely soluble (>25% w/v) in water initially, but rapidly precipitates as the sparingly soluble (2%-3% w/v) monohydrate. Famciclovir is not hygroscopic below 85% relative humidity. Partition coefficients are: octanol/water (pH 4.8)  $P=1.09$  and octanol/phosphate buffer (pH 7.4)  $P=2.08$ .

FAMVIR tablets contain 125 mg, 250 mg or 500 mg of famciclovir, together with the following inactive ingredients: hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycols, sodium starch glycolate and titanium dioxide.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Famciclovir is an orally administered prodrug of the antiviral agent penciclovir [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.4)].

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Famciclovir is the diacetyl 6-deoxy analog of the active antiviral compound penciclovir. Following oral administration famciclovir undergoes rapid and extensive metabolism to penciclovir and little or no famciclovir is detected in plasma or urine. Penciclovir is predominantly eliminated unchanged by the kidney. Therefore, the dose of FAMVIR needs to be adjusted in patients with different degrees of renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.3)].

#### Pharmacokinetics in adults:

*Absorption and Bioavailability:* The absolute bioavailability of penciclovir is  $77 \pm 8\%$  as determined following the administration of a 500 mg famciclovir oral dose and a 400 mg penciclovir intravenous dose to 12 healthy male subjects.

Penciclovir concentrations increased in proportion to dose over a famciclovir dose range of 125 mg to 1000 mg administered as a single dose. Table 5 shows the mean pharmacokinetic parameters of penciclovir after single administration of FAMVIR to healthy male volunteers.

**Table 5 Mean Pharmacokinetic Parameters of Penciclovir in Healthy Adult Subjects\***

Dose	AUC (0-inf) <sup>†</sup> (mcg hr/mL)	C <sub>max</sub> <sup>‡</sup> (mcg/mL)	t <sub>max</sub> <sup>§</sup> (h)
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125 mg	2.24	0.8	0.9
250 mg	4.48	1.6	0.9
500 mg	8.95	3.3	0.9
1000 mg	17.9	6.6	0.9

\* Based on pharmacokinetic data from 17 studies

† AUC (0-inf) (mcg hr/mL)=area under the plasma concentration-time profile extrapolated to infinity.

‡ C<sub>max</sub> (mcg/mL)=maximum observed plasma concentration.

§ t<sub>max</sub> (h)= time to C<sub>max</sub>.

Following oral single-dose administration of 500 mg famciclovir to seven patients with herpes zoster, the AUC (mean ± SD), C<sub>max</sub>, and t<sub>max</sub> were 12.1±1.7 mcg hr/mL, 4.0±0.7 mcg/mL, and 0.7±0.2 hours, respectively. The AUC of penciclovir was approximately 35% greater in patients with herpes zoster as compared to healthy volunteers. Some of this difference may be due to differences in renal function between the two groups.

There is no accumulation of penciclovir after the administration of 500 mg famciclovir three times daily for 7 days.

Penciclovir C<sub>max</sub> decreased approximately 50% and t<sub>max</sub> was delayed by 1.5 hours when a capsule formulation of famciclovir was administered with food (nutritional content was approximately 910 Kcal and 26% fat). There was no effect on the extent of availability (AUC) of penciclovir. There was an 18% decrease in C<sub>max</sub> and a delay in t<sub>max</sub> of about 1 hour when famciclovir was given 2 hours after a meal as compared to its administration 2 hours before a meal. Because there was no effect on the extent of systemic availability of penciclovir, FAMVIR can be taken without regard to meals.

*Distribution:* The volume of distribution (Vd<sub>β</sub>) was 1.08±0.17 L/kg in 12 healthy male subjects following a single intravenous dose of penciclovir at 400 mg administered as a 1-hour intravenous infusion. Penciclovir is <20% bound to plasma proteins over the concentration range of 0.1 to 20 mcg/mL. The blood/plasma ratio of penciclovir is approximately 1.

*Metabolism:* Following oral administration, famciclovir is deacetylated and oxidized to form penciclovir. Metabolites that are inactive include 6-deoxy penciclovir, monoacetylated penciclovir, and 6-deoxy monoacetylated penciclovir (5%, <0.5% and <0.5% of the dose in the urine, respectively). Little or no famciclovir is detected in plasma or urine. An *in vitro* study using human liver microsomes demonstrated that cytochrome P450 does not play an important role in famciclovir metabolism. The conversion of 6-deoxy penciclovir to penciclovir is catalyzed by aldehyde oxidase. Cimetidine and promethazine, *in vitro* inhibitors of aldehyde oxidase, did not show relevant effects on the formation of penciclovir *in vivo* [see *Drug Interactions* (7.2)].

*Elimination:* Approximately 94% of administered radioactivity was recovered in urine over 24 hours (83% of the dose was excreted in the first 6 hours) after the administration of 5 mg/kg radiolabeled penciclovir as a 1-hour infusion to three healthy male volunteers. Penciclovir accounted for 91% of the radioactivity excreted in the urine.

Following the oral administration of a single 500 mg dose of radiolabeled famciclovir to three healthy male volunteers, 73% and 27% of administered radioactivity were recovered in urine and feces over 72 hours, respectively. Penciclovir accounted for 82% and 6-deoxy penciclovir accounted for 7% of the radioactivity excreted in the urine. Approximately 60% of the administered radiolabeled dose was collected in urine in the first 6 hours.

After intravenous administration of penciclovir in 48 healthy male volunteers, mean ± SD total plasma clearance of penciclovir was 36.6±6.3 L/hr (0.48±0.09 L/hr/kg). Penciclovir renal clearance accounted for 74.5±8.8% of total plasma clearance.

Renal clearance of penciclovir following the oral administration of a single 500 mg dose of famciclovir to 109 healthy male volunteers was 27.7±7.6 L/hr. Active tubular secretion contributes to the renal elimination of penciclovir.

The plasma elimination half-life of penciclovir was 2.0±0.3 hours after intravenous administration of penciclovir to 48 healthy male volunteers and 2.3±0.4 hours after oral administration of 500 mg famciclovir to 124 healthy male volunteers. The half-life in 17 patients with herpes zoster was 2.8±1.0 hours and 2.7±1.0 hours after single and repeated doses, respectively.

#### Special populations:

*Geriatric patients:* Based on cross study comparison, penciclovir AUC was 40% higher and penciclovir renal clearance was 22% lower in elderly subjects (n=18, age 65-79 years) as compared with younger subjects. Some of this difference may be due to differences in renal function between the two groups. No famciclovir dosage adjustment based on age is necessary if renal function is impaired [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.3), *Use in Specific Populations* (8.5).]

*Patients with renal impairment:* In subjects with varying degrees of renal impairment, apparent plasma clearance, renal clearance, and the plasma-elimination rate constant of penciclovir decreased linearly with reductions in renal function, after both single and repeated dosing [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.6)*]. A dosage adjustment is recommended for patients with renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*].

*Patients with hepatic impairment:* Well-compensated chronic liver disease had no effect on the extent of availability (AUC) of penciclovir [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.7)*]. No dosage adjustment is recommended for patients with well-compensated hepatic impairment.

*HIV-infected patients:* Following oral administration of a single dose of 500 mg famciclovir to HIV-positive patients, the pharmacokinetic parameters of penciclovir were comparable to those observed in healthy subjects.

*Gender:* The pharmacokinetics of penciclovir were evaluated in 18 healthy male and 18 healthy female volunteers after single-dose oral administration of 500 mg famciclovir. AUC of penciclovir was  $9.3 \pm 1.9$  mcg hr/mL and  $11.1 \pm 2.1$  mcg hr/mL in males and females, respectively. Penciclovir renal clearance was  $28.5 \pm 8.9$  L/hr and  $21.8 \pm 4.3$  L/hr, respectively. These differences were attributed to differences in renal function between the two groups. No famciclovir dosage adjustment based on gender is recommended.

*Race:* A retrospective evaluation was performed to compare the pharmacokinetic parameters obtained in Black and Caucasian subjects after single and repeat once-daily, twice-daily, or three times-daily administration of famciclovir 500 mg. Data from a study in healthy volunteers (single dose), a study in subjects with varying degrees of renal impairment (single and repeat dose) and a study in subjects with hepatic impairment (single dose) did not indicate any significant differences in the pharmacokinetics of penciclovir between Black and Caucasian subjects.

## 12.4 Virology

**Mechanism of action:** Famciclovir is a prodrug of penciclovir, which has demonstrated inhibitory activity against herpes simplex virus types 1 (HSV-1) and 2 (HSV-2) and varicella zoster virus (VZV). In cells infected with HSV-1, HSV-2 or VZV, the viral thymidine kinase phosphorylates penciclovir to a monophosphate form that, in turn, is converted by cellular kinases to the active form penciclovir triphosphate. Biochemical studies demonstrate that penciclovir triphosphate inhibits HSV-2 DNA polymerase competitively with deoxyguanosine triphosphate. Consequently, herpes viral DNA synthesis and, therefore, replication are selectively inhibited. Penciclovir triphosphate has an intracellular half-life of 10 hours in HSV-1-, 20 hours in HSV-2- and 7 hours in VZV-infected cells grown in culture. However, the clinical significance of the intracellular half-life is unknown.

**Antiviral activity:** In cell culture studies, penciclovir is inhibitory to the following herpes viruses: HSV-1, HSV-2 and VZV. The antiviral activity of penciclovir against wild type strains grown on human foreskin fibroblasts was assessed with a plaque reduction assay and staining with crystal violet 3 days postinfection for HSV and 10 days postinfection for VZV. The median EC<sub>50</sub> values of penciclovir against laboratory and clinical isolates of HSV-1, HSV-2, and VZV were 2 μM (range 1.2 to 2.4 μM, n = 7), 2.6 μM (range 1.6 to 11 μM, n = 6), and 34 μM (range 6.7 to 71 μM, n = 6), respectively.

**Resistance:** Penciclovir-resistant mutants of HSV and VZV can result from mutations in the viral thymidine kinase (TK) and DNA polymerase genes. Mutations in the viral TK gene may lead to complete loss of TK activity (TK negative), reduced levels of TK activity (TK partial), or alteration in the ability of viral TK to phosphorylate the drug without an equivalent loss in the ability to phosphorylate thymidine (TK altered). The median EC<sub>50</sub> values observed in a plaque reduction assay with penciclovir resistant HSV-1, HSV-2, and VZV were 69 μM (range 14 to 115 μM, n = 6), 46 μM (range 4 to >395 μM, n = 9), and 92 μM (range 51 to 148 μM, n = 4), respectively. The possibility of viral resistance to penciclovir should be considered in patients who fail to respond or experience recurrent viral shedding during therapy.

**Cross-resistance:** Cross-resistance has been observed among HSV DNA polymerase inhibitors. The most commonly encountered acyclovir resistant mutants that are TK negative are also resistant to penciclovir.

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

**Carcinogenesis:** Two-year dietary carcinogenicity studies with famciclovir were conducted in rats and mice. An increase in the incidence of mammary adenocarcinoma (a common tumor in animals of this strain) was seen in female rats receiving the high dose of 600 mg/kg/day (1.1 to 4.5x the human systemic exposure at the recommended total daily oral dose ranging between 500 mg and 2000 mg, based on area under the plasma concentration curve comparisons [24 hr AUC] for penciclovir). No increases in tumor incidence were reported in male rats treated at doses up to 240 mg/kg/day (0.7 to 2.7x the human AUC), or in male and female mice at doses up to 600 mg/kg/day (0.3 to 1.2x the human AUC).

**Mutagenesis:** Famciclovir and penciclovir (the active metabolite of famciclovir) were tested for genotoxic potential in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays. Famciclovir and penciclovir were negative in *in vitro* tests for gene mutations in bacteria (*S. typhimurium* and *E. coli*) and unscheduled DNA synthesis in mammalian HeLa 83 cells (at doses up to 10,000 and 5,000 mcg/plate, respectively). Famciclovir was also negative in the L5178Y mouse lymphoma assay (5000 mcg/mL), the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test (4800 mg/kg), and rat dominant lethal study (5000 mg/kg). Famciclovir induced increases in polyploidy in human lymphocytes *in vitro* in the absence of chromosomal damage (1200 mcg/mL). Penciclovir was positive in the L5178Y mouse lymphoma assay for gene mutation/chromosomal aberrations, with and without metabolic activation (1000 mcg/mL). In human lymphocytes, penciclovir caused chromosomal aberrations in the absence of metabolic activation (250 mcg/mL). Penciclovir caused an increased incidence of micronuclei in mouse bone marrow *in vivo* when administered intravenously at doses highly toxic to bone marrow (500 mg/kg), but not when administered orally.

**Impairment of fertility:** Testicular toxicity was observed in rats, mice, and dogs following repeated administration of famciclovir or penciclovir. Testicular changes included atrophy of the seminiferous tubules, reduction in sperm count, and/or increased incidence of sperm with abnormal morphology or reduced motility. The degree of toxicity to male reproduction was related to dose and duration of exposure. In male rats, decreased fertility was observed after 10 weeks of dosing at 500 mg/kg/day (1.4 to 5.7x the human AUC). The no observable effect level for sperm and testicular toxicity in rats following chronic administration (26 weeks) was 50 mg/kg/day (0.15 to 0.6x the human systemic exposure based on AUC comparisons). Testicular toxicity was observed following chronic administration to mice (104 weeks) and dogs (26 weeks) at doses of 600 mg/kg/day (0.3 to 1.2x the human AUC) and 150 mg/kg/day (1.3 to 5.1x the human AUC), respectively.

Famciclovir had no effect on general reproductive performance or fertility in female rats at doses up to 1000 mg/kg/day (2.7 to 10.8x the human AUC).

Two placebo-controlled studies in a total of 130 otherwise healthy men with a normal sperm profile over an 8-week baseline period and recurrent genital herpes receiving oral FAMVIR (250 mg twice daily) (n=66) or placebo (n=64) therapy for 18 weeks showed no evidence of significant effects on sperm count, motility or morphology during treatment or during an 8-week follow-up.

### 13.2 Animal Toxicology

**Juvenile toxicity study in rats:** In juvenile rats, famciclovir was administered daily at doses of 0, 40, 125, or 400 mg/kg/day for 10 weeks beginning on post-partum Day 4. There were no treatment related deaths or clinical observations. The toxicity of famciclovir was not enhanced in juvenile rats compared to that in the adult animals.

## 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

### 14.1 Herpes Labialis (Cold Sores)

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was conducted in 701 immunocompetent adults with recurrent herpes labialis. Patients self-initiated therapy within 1 hour of first onset of signs or symptoms of a recurrent herpes labialis episode with FAMVIR 1500 mg as a single dose (n=227), FAMVIR 750 mg twice daily (n=220) or placebo (n=254) for 1 day. The median time to healing among patients with non-aborted lesions (progressing beyond the papule stage) was 4.4 days in the FAMVIR 1500 mg single-dose group (n=152) as compared to 6.2 days in the placebo group (n=168). The median difference in time to healing between the placebo and FAMVIR 1500 mg treated groups was 1.3 days (95% CI: 0.6 – 2.0). No differences in proportion of patients with aborted lesions (not progressing beyond the papule stage) were observed between patients receiving FAMVIR or placebo: 33% for FAMVIR 1500 mg single dose and 34% for placebo. The median time to loss of pain and tenderness was 1.7 days in FAMVIR 1500 mg single dose-treated patients versus 2.9 days in placebo-treated patients.

### 14.2 Genital Herpes

**Recurrent episodes:** A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was conducted in 329 immunocompetent adults with recurrent genital herpes. Patients self-initiated therapy within 6 hours of the first sign or symptom of a recurrent genital herpes episode with either FAMVIR 1000 mg twice daily (n=163) or placebo (n=166) for 1 day. The median time to healing among patients with non-aborted lesions (progressing beyond the papule stage) was 4.3 days in FAMVIR-treated patients (n=125) as compared to 6.1 days in placebo-treated patients (n=145). The median difference in time to healing between the placebo and FAMVIR-treated groups was 1.2 days (95% CI: 0.5 to 2.0). Twenty-three percent of FAMVIR-treated patients had aborted lesions (no lesion development beyond erythema) versus 13% in placebo-treated patients. The median time to loss of all symptoms (e.g., tingling, itching, burning, pain, or tenderness) was 3.3 days in FAMVIR-treated patients vs. 5.4 days in placebo-treated patients.

A randomized (2:1), double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was conducted in 304 immunocompetent Black and African American adults with recurrent genital herpes. Patients self-initiated therapy within 6 hours of the first sign or symptom of a recurrent genital herpes episode with either FAMVIR 1000 mg twice daily (n=206) or placebo (n=98) for 1 day. The median time to healing among patients with non-aborted lesions was 5.4 days in FAMVIR-treated patients (n=152) as compared to 4.8 days in placebo-treated patients (n=78). The median difference in time to healing between the placebo and FAMVIR-treated groups was -0.26 days (95% CI: -0.98 to 0.40).

**Suppressive therapy:** Two randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 12-month trials were conducted in 934 immunocompetent adults with a history of 6 or more recurrences of genital herpes episodes per year. Comparisons included FAMVIR 125 mg three times daily, 250 mg twice daily, 250 mg three times daily, and placebo. At 12 months, 60% to 65% of patients were still receiving FAMVIR and 25% were receiving placebo treatment. Recurrence rates at 6 and 12 months in patients treated with the 250 mg twice daily dose are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6 Recurrence Rates at 6 and 12 Months in Adults with Recurrent Genital Herpes on Suppressive Therapy**

	Recurrence Rates at 6 Months		Recurrence Rates at 12 Months	
	Famvir 250 mg twice daily (n=236)	Placebo (n=233)	Famvir 250 mg twice daily (n=236)	Placebo (n=233)
Recurrence-free	39%	10%	29%	6%
Recurrences <sup>†</sup>	47%	74%	53%	78%
Lost to follow-up <sup>‡</sup>	14%	16%	17%	16%

<sup>†</sup>Based on patient reported data; not necessarily confirmed by a physician.

<sup>‡</sup>Patients recurrence-free at time of last contact prior to withdrawal.

FAMVIR-treated patients had approximately 1/5 the median number of recurrences as compared to placebo-treated patients. Higher doses of FAMVIR were not associated with an increase in efficacy.

### 14.3 Recurrent Orolabial or Genital Herpes in HIV-Infected Patients

A randomized, double-blind trial compared famciclovir 500 mg twice daily for 7 days (n=150) with oral acyclovir 400 mg 5 times daily for 7 days (n=143) in HIV-infected patients with recurrent orolabial or genital herpes treated within 48 hours of lesion onset. Approximately 40% of patients had a CD<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> count below 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, 54% of patients had anogenital lesions and 35% had orolabial lesions. Famciclovir therapy was comparable to oral acyclovir in reducing new lesion formation and in time to complete healing.

### 14.4 Herpes Zoster (Shingles)

Two randomized, double-blind trials, 1 placebo-controlled and 1 active-controlled, were conducted in 964 immunocompetent adults with uncomplicated herpes zoster. Treatment was initiated within 72 hours of first lesion appearance and was continued for 7 days.

In the placebo-controlled trial, 419 patients were treated with either FAMVIR 500 mg three times daily (n=138), FAMVIR 750 mg three times daily (n=135) or placebo (n=146). The median time to full crusting was 5 days among FAMVIR 500 mg-treated patients as compared to 7 days in placebo-treated patients. The times to full crusting, loss of vesicles, loss of ulcers, and loss of crusts were shorter for FAMVIR 500 mg-treated patients than for placebo-treated patients in the overall study population. The effects of FAMVIR were greater when therapy was initiated within 48 hours of rash onset; it was also more profound in patients 50 years of age or older. Among the 65.2% of patients with at least 1 positive viral culture, FAMVIR treated patients had a shorter median duration of viral shedding than placebo-treated patients (1 day and 2 days, respectively).

There were no overall differences in the duration of pain before rash healing between FAMVIR- and placebo-treated groups. In addition, there was no difference in the incidence of pain after rash healing (postherpetic neuralgia) between the treatment groups. In the 186 patients (44.4% of total study population) who developed postherpetic neuralgia, the median duration of postherpetic neuralgia was shorter in patients treated with FAMVIR 500 mg than in those treated with placebo (63 days and 119 days, respectively). No additional efficacy was demonstrated with higher dose of FAMVIR.

In the active-controlled trial, 545 patients were treated with one of three doses of FAMVIR three times daily or with acyclovir 800 mg five times daily. Times to full lesion crusting and times to loss of acute pain were comparable for all groups and there were no statistically significant differences in the time to loss of postherpetic neuralgia between FAMVIR and acyclovir-treated groups.

## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

FAMVIR tablets are supplied as film-coated tablets as follows: 125 mg in bottles of 30; 250 mg in bottles of 30; 500 mg in bottles of 30 and Single Unit Packages of 50 (intended for institutional use only).

- FAMVIR 125 mg tablet:  
White, round film-coated, biconvex, beveled edges, debossed with “FAMVIR” on one side and “125” on the other.  
125 mg 30’s..... NDC 0078-0366-15
- FAMVIR 250 mg tablet:  
White, round film-coated, biconvex, beveled edges, debossed with “FAMVIR” on one side and “250” on the other.  
250 mg 30’s..... NDC 0078-0367-15
- FAMVIR 500 mg tablet:  
White, oval film-coated, biconvex, debossed with “FAMVIR” on one side and “500” on the other.  
500 mg 30’s..... NDC 0078-0368-15  
500 mg SUP 50’s..... NDC 0078-0368-64  
Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15-30°C (59-86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

See FDA-Approved Patient Labeling (Patient Information)

There is no evidence that FAMVIR will affect the ability of a patient to drive or to use machines. However, patients who experience dizziness, somnolence, confusion or other central nervous system disturbances while taking FAMVIR should refrain from driving or operating machinery.

Because FAMVIR contains lactose (FAMVIR 125 mg, 250 mg and 500 mg tablets contain lactose 26.9 mg, 53.7 mg and 107.4 mg, respectively), patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, a severe lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should be advised to discuss with their healthcare provider before taking FAMVIR.

### 17.1 Herpes Labialis (Cold Sores)

Patients should be advised to initiate treatment at the earliest sign or symptom of a recurrence of cold sores (e.g., tingling, itching, burning, pain, or lesion). Patients should be instructed that treatment for cold sores should not exceed 1 dose. Patients should be informed that FAMVIR is not a cure for cold sores.

### 17.2 Genital Herpes

Patients should be informed that FAMVIR is not a cure for genital herpes. There are no data evaluating whether FAMVIR will prevent transmission of infection to others. Because genital herpes is a sexually transmitted disease, patients should avoid contact with lesions or intercourse when lesions and/or symptoms are present to avoid infecting partners. Genital herpes is frequently transmitted in the absence of symptoms through asymptomatic viral shedding. Therefore, patients should be counseled to use safer sex practices.

If episodic therapy for recurrent genital herpes is indicated, patients should be advised to initiate therapy at the first sign or symptom of an episode.

There are no data on safety or effectiveness of chronic suppressive therapy of longer than one year duration.

### 17.3 Herpes Zoster (Shingles)

There are no data on treatment initiated more than 72 hours after onset of zoster rash. Patients should be advised to initiate treatment as soon as possible after a diagnosis of herpes zoster.

## PATIENT INFORMATION

FAMVIR<sup>®</sup> (Fam'-veer)

(famciclovir)

Tablets

Read this Patient Information before you start taking FAMVIR and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

### What is FAMVIR?

Famvir is a prescription antiviral medicine used to:

- treat outbreaks of cold sores (fever blisters) in healthy adults
- treat outbreaks of genital herpes in healthy adults
- decrease the number of outbreaks of genital herpes in healthy adults
- treat outbreaks of herpes simplex lesions in or around the mouth, genitals, and anal area in people infected with HIV
- treat shingles (herpes zoster) in adults with normal immune system

It is not known if FAMVIR is safe and effective in children younger than 18 years of age.

FAMVIR is not a cure for herpes. It is not known if FAMVIR can stop the spread of herpes to others. If you are sexually active, you can pass herpes to your partner even if you are taking FAMVIR. Herpes can be transmitted even if you do not have active symptoms. You should continue to practice safer sex to lower the chances of spreading genital herpes to others. Do not have sexual contact with your partner during an outbreak of genital herpes or if you have any symptoms of genital herpes. Use a condom made of latex or polyurethane when you have a sexual contact. Ask your healthcare provider for more information about safer sex practices.

### Who should not take FAMVIR?

Do not take FAMVIR if you are allergic to any of its ingredients or to Denavir<sup>®</sup> (penciclovir cream). See the end of this Patient Information leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in FAMVIR.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking FAMVIR?

Before you start taking FAMVIR, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have kidney or liver problems
- have a rare genetic problem with galactose intolerance, a severe lactase deficiency or you do not absorb glucose-galactose (malabsorption)
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if FAMVIR will harm your unborn baby
- Pregnancy Exposure Reporting: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation collects pregnancy reports which are reported on a voluntary basis. In case of pregnancy, talk to your healthcare provider about reporting your pregnancy.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- any other medicines and products you use to treat herpes outbreaks
- probenecid (Probalan)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them with you to show to your healthcare provider and pharmacist every time you get a new medicine.

### How should I take FAMVIR?

- Take FAMVIR exactly as prescribed
- Your healthcare provider will tell you how many FAMVIR to take and when to take them. Your dose of FAMVIR and how often you take it may be different depending on your condition
- FAMVIR can be taken with or without food
- It is important for you to finish all of the medicine as prescribed, even if you begin to feel better

Reference ID: 2898708

- Your symptoms may continue even after you finish all of your FAMVIR. This does not mean that you need more medicine, since you have already finished a full course of FAMVIR and it will continue to work in your body. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any questions about your condition and your treatment

### **What are the possible side effects of FAMVIR?**

The most common side effects of FAMVIR include:

- headache
- nausea

Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of FAMVIR. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

### **How should I store FAMVIR?**

- Store FAMVIR at room temperature between 59° and 86°F (15° to 30°C).

**Keep FAMVIR and all medicines out of reach from children.**

### **General information about FAMVIR**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in Patient Information leaflets. Do not use FAMVIR for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FAMVIR to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FAMVIR. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider or pharmacist can give you information about FAMVIR that is written for health professionals. For more information, go to [www.FAMVIR.com](http://www.FAMVIR.com) or call 1-888-669-6682.

### **What are the ingredients in FAMVIR?**

**Active ingredient:** famciclovir

**Inactive ingredients:** hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycols, sodium starch glycolate, and titanium dioxide

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