FAMVIR®
(fam-veer)
for genital herpes
famciclovir (fam-SYE-klo-veer)
Consumer Medicine Information

What is this leaflet
This leaflet answers some common questions about FAMVIR.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of
talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet was last
updated on the date listed on the final page.
Some more recent information on the
medicine may be available.

You should ensure that you speak to your
pharmacist or doctor to obtain the most
up to date information on the medicine.
You can also download the most up to

Those updates may contain important
information about the medicine and its use of
which you should be aware.
All medicines have risks and benefits. Your
doctor has weighed the risks of you taking
FAMVIR against the benefits it can provide.

If you have any concerns about this
medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
Keep this leaflet with the medicine.
You may need to read it again.

What FAMVIR is used for
FAMVIR is an antiviral medicine for adults
and adolescents. It is used to treat outbreaks
of genital herpes and also to suppress
(prevent) recurrent outbreaks of the
condition. Genital herpes is a viral infection
caused by herpes simplex 1 or herpes
simplex 2. It is usually transmitted through
sexual contact.

Symptoms include tingling, burning or
itching of the genitals, followed by blisters
that may be painful.

People who have frequent episodes of genital
herpes can also take FAMVIR to help
prevent the attacks.

Although FAMVIR does not cure the viral
infection, it helps to relieve the symptoms
and shorten their duration.

The best results are obtained if the medicine
is started as soon as possible after the first
symptoms begin to appear.

Taking FAMVIR does not prevent you from
spreading the herpes virus to another person.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions
about why this medicine has been
prescribed to you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for
another reason.

FAMVIR is only available with a doctor's
prescription. It is not addictive.

This medicine is not recommended for use
in children under 12 years of age.

Before you take FAMVIR
Before you start to take this medicine.
Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction
may include:
• shortness of breath, wheezing or
difficulty breathing;
• swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other
parts of the body;
• rash, itching or hives on the skin.

Do not take FAMVIR after the expiry date
printed on the pack or if the packaging is
torn or if it shows signs of tampering.

Tell your doctor if you have a problem with:
• your body's immune system, which
helps to fight off infections
• your kidneys
• your liver

Your doctor may want to take extra
precautions in that case.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant,
intend to become pregnant or if you are
breast-feeding.

FAMVIR should not be used during
pregnancy unless necessary. Your doctor will
discuss with you the potential risks of taking
FAMVIR during pregnancy, and will also
advise you if you should take FAMVIR
while breast-feeding, based on the benefits
and risks of your personal situation.

Tell your doctor if you are lactose
intolerant.

FAMVIR 125 mg tablets and 250 mg tablets
contains lactose. FAMVIR 500 mg tablets
do not contain lactose.

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any
other medicines, foods, dyes or
preservatives.

Your doctor will want to know if you are
prone to allergies.

If you experience an allergic reaction, stop
using the medicine and inform your
doctor or pharmacist immediately.

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

Some medicines and FAMVIR may interfere
with each other. These include:
• probenecid, a prescription medicine used
to treat gout (a disease with painful,
swollen joints caused by uric acid
crystals) and to increase blood levels of
penicillin-type antibiotics
• raloxifene, a medicine used to treat
osteoarthritis (a disease which causes
bones to become less dense, gradually
making them weaker, more brittle and
likely to break);
• medicines that can affect your kidneys.
You may need to take different amounts
of these medicines or you may need to take
different medicines. Your doctor and
pharmacist have more information.

If you have not told your doctor about any
of these things, tell him/her before you
start taking this medicine.

How to take FAMVIR
Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass
of water.
The tablets may be taken with or without
food. It is not necessary to chew or crush the
tablet.

If you do not understand the instructions
on the label, ask your doctor or
pharmacist for help.

How much to take
Follow your doctor’s instructions on how
many FAMVIR tablets to take.

These instructions may differ from the
information contained in this leaflet.

Do not change the dose yourself, without
your doctor's advice, regardless of how
well you may feel.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are
unsure of the correct dose for you.

They will tell you exactly how much to take.

For people whose immune system does not
work as well as it should, the dose and
duration of treatment may need to be
increased.

For people who have kidney problems, your
doctor may decide to give you a lower dose.

When to take it
There are different ways to take FAMVIR
depending on your condition.

1. TO TREAT AN OUTBREAK OF
GENITAL HERPES
To treat an outbreak, take the tablets
as soon as possible after the first
symptoms of genital herpes appear.

The tablets are best taken within 6 hours
of the first symptoms of genital herpes
appearing.

There are three ways to take FAMVIR to
treat an outbreak of genital herpes
and your doctor will tell you which regimens
is best for you:
- Two 500 mg FAMVIR tablets twice
daily for one day
- Two 250 mg FAMVIR tablets to start
with, followed by one 250 mg tablet
every 12 hours for the next 3 doses
- One 125 mg FAMVIR tablet every 12
hours for 5 days

take the second dose (and subsequent
doses, if applicable) 12 hours after
the first dose, or as close as possible to
12 hours during waking hours.

If you take the first dose in the late
morning or early afternoon, you can take
the next dose before going to bed, but do
not take any doses less than 6 hours
apart.

During normal waking hours, take
any remaining doses at 12 hourly
intervals.

Your doctor may have prescribed a
different dose.

2. TO SUPPRESS (PREVENT)
OUTBREAKS OF RECURRENT

Published by MIMS/myDr February 2017
GENITAL HERPES
Start suppressive treatment to prevent outbreaks of recurrent genital herpes as soon as possible after you have your FAMVIR prescription filled.

Take one 250 mg FAMVIR tablet twice each day.

Continue to take one 250 mg FAMVIR tablet twice each day for as long as your doctor tells you to. Do this even if you do not have an outbreak.

This medicine helps to control your condition but does not cure it. Your doctor will tell you when you can stop.

Fill your next repeat prescription before using all of the tablets in your current carton. This will ensure that your treatment can be continued and give you the best results.

Try to take the tablets at about the same times each day, as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

Taking your tablet at the same times each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take the tablets.

How long to take it
Continue taking FAMVIR every day for as long as your doctor tells you.

To help clear up your infection, you must keep taking this medicine, even if your symptoms begin to clear up after a few days.

To prevent recurrent episodes of genital herpes, you must take the tablets each day, even if you have no symptoms.

It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

If you forget to take it
Take a dose as soon as you remember. Take your next tablet at the usual time, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

Do not take two doses within a time frame of less than one hour. In that case, skip the missed dose.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the one that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (Overdose)
Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone number 13 11 26), or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much FAMVIR. Show them your pack of tablets. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Keep the telephone numbers for these places handy.

Taking too much FAMVIR may affect your kidneys. In people who already have kidney problems it may, rarely, lead to kidney failure if their dose is not correctly lowered.

While you are taking FAMVIR

Things you must do

If you become pregnant while taking FAMVIR, tell your doctor.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks of taking it while you are pregnant.

If you are about to be started on a new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking FAMVIR.

Tell any other doctor, dentist or pharmacist who treats you that you are taking FAMVIR.

Things you must not do

Do not give this medicine to anyone else even if their condition seems to be the same as yours.

Do not use it to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop taking your tablets or change the dosage without checking with your doctor first.

If you stop your tablets suddenly, your condition may worsen or you may have unwanted side effects.

Things to be careful of

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Be careful driving, operating machinery or doing jobs that require you to be alert until you know how FAMVIR affects you.

This medicine can cause dizziness, sleepiness or confusion.

Practice "safer sex", including the use of condoms, when symptoms are present, even if you have started taking FAMVIR.

This is important to prevent you passing the infection on to others.

Things that may help your condition

Take the following precautions to help manage your condition:

• Use condoms between episodes to reduce the risk of infecting your partner
• Keep the areas affected by the virus as clean and dry as possible
• Wear loose-fitting clothing to avoid irritating the blisters
• Avoid touching or scratching the sore area as you may spread the virus on your fingers.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking FAMVIR.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by these lists of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

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

• headache
• dizziness
• nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting
• abdominal pain
• diarrhoea
• itching or an itchy rash (urticaria)
• abnormal liver function test results

The above side effects are usually mild.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

• a rash on other parts of your body
• extreme sleepiness or confusion, usually in older people
• hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not really there)
• painful or swollen joints
• aching muscles or muscle tenderness or weakness that is not caused by exercise
• yellowing of the skin or eyes (signs of jaundice)
• palpitations (signs of abnormal heart beat)

The above side effects may need medical attention.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if any of the following side effects happen to you:

• swelling below the surface of the skin (e.g. swelling around the face, eye, eyelid or throat)
• unexplained bruising, reddish or purplish patches on the skin or bleeding more easily than usual as it may indicate that the number of platelets (a type of blood cell responsible for blood clotting) in your blood are reduced
• severe blistering of the skin or mucous membranes of the lips, eyes, mouth, nasal passages or genitals (signs of a serious skin reaction)
• purple patches, itching, burning of the skin (signs of inflamed blood vessels)
• seizures or fits
• difficulty breathing or swallowing, wheezing or coughing, light-headedness, changes in alertness, skin reddening, facial/throat swelling, blue discoloration of the lips, tongue or skin (signs of severe allergic reaction).

The above side effects are very rare.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here or not yet known may happen in some people.

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

After using FAMVIR

Storage

Keep your medicine in the original container until it is time to take it.

Store your FAMVIR tablets in a dry place at room temperature.

Do not store your medicines in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave the tablets in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines. FAMVIR® tablets will keep best if they are stored cool and dry.

Keep the medicine where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that you have left over.

Product description

What it looks like

FAMVIR comes in three tablet strengths for the treatment of genital herpes:

• FAMVIR 125 mg tablets are white, round, film-coated tablets, marked with
“FV” on one side and “125” on the other. Each carton contains 40 tablets.

- FAMVIR 250 mg tablets are white, round, film-coated tablets, marked with “FV” on one side and “250” on the other. Each carton contains either 20 or 56 tablets.

- FAMVIR 500 mg tablets are white, oval, film-coated tablets with “FV 500” on one side. Each carton contains 56 tablets.

**Ingredients**

**Active Ingredient**

FAMVIR 125 - contain 125 mg famciclovir per tablet

FAMVIR 250 - contain 250 mg famciclovir per tablet.

FAMVIR 500 - contain 500 mg famciclovir per tablet.

**Inactive ingredients**

All FAMVIR tablets contain the following inactive ingredients:

- hypromellose (E 464)
- hydroxypropylcellulose (E 463)
- macrogol
- magnesium stearate (E 572)
- sodium starch glycollate
- titanium dioxide (E171, CI 77989)

FAMVIR 125 and 250 mg tablets also contain:

- lactose

FAMVIR 500 mg tablets do not contain lactose.

All FAMVIR tablets do not contain sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

**More information**

For more information about genital herpes, visit www.herpes.com.au.

**Sponsor**

FAMVIR is supplied in Australia by:

NOVARTIS Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Limited

ABN 18 004 244 160

54 Waterloo Road

Macquarie Park NSW 2113

Telephone 1 800 671 203

Web site: www.novartis.com.au

®= Registered Trademark

This leaflet was prepared in August 2016.

Australian Registration Numbers:

FAMVIR 125 mg AUST R 54668

FAMVIR 250 mg AUST R 51389

FAMVIR 500 mg AUST R 67391

(fam160816c_genital.doc) based on PI

(fam160816i.doc)