Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Zovirax 30 mg/g Eye Ointment

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each gram of ointment contains 30 mg aciclovir equivalent to 3 %w/w aciclovir.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Eye ointment
Soft, homogenous, white to off-white, slightly translucent, unctuous mass.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Zovirax eye ointment is indicated in the treatment of Herpes simplex keratitis.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

For ophthalmic administration

Method of administration.

Adults and children: A l cm ribbon of the ointment should be placed inside the lower conjunctival sac five times a day at approximately four-hourly intervals. Treatment should continue for at least 3 days after healing is complete.

4.3 Contraindications

Zovirax eye Ointment is contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to aciclovir or valaciclovir, or any of the excipients as listed in section 6.1.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Patients should be informed that transient mild stinging immediately following application may occur.

Patients should avoid wearing contact lenses when using Zovirax eye Ointment.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions

No clinically significant interactions have been identified.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

A post-marketing aciclovir pregnancy registry has documented pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to any formulation of Zovirax. The registry findings have not shown an increase in the number of birth defects amongst Zovirax exposed subjects compared with the general population, and any birth defects showed no uniqueness or consistent pattern to suggest a common cause.

Systemic administration of aciclovir in internationally accepted standard tests did not produce embryotoxic or teratogenic effects in rabbits, rats or mice.

In a non-standard test in rats, foetal abnormalities were observed but only following such high subcutaneous doses that maternal toxicity was produced. The clinical relevance of these findings is uncertain.

The use of Zovirax Eye Ointment should be considered only when the potential benefits outweigh the possibility of unknown risks.

Breast-feeding
Limited human data show that the drug does pass into breast milk following systemic administration. However, the dosage received by a nursing infant following maternal use of Zovirax eye ointment would be insignificant.

Fertility
See clinical studies in section 5.3

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Zovirax eye ointment can affect visual ability and therefore caution is advised when driving or using machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse reactions are listed below by MedDRA body system organ class and by frequency.
The frequency categories used are: very common ≥1/10, common ≥1/100 and <1/10, uncommon ≥1/1000 and <1/100, rare ≥1/10,000 and <1/1000 very rare <1/10,000.

Clinical trial data have been used to assign frequency categories to adverse reactions observed during clinical trials with aciclovir 3% ophthalmic ointment. Due to the nature of the adverse events observed, it is not possible to determine unequivocally which events were related to the administration of the drug and which were related to the disease. Spontaneous reporting data has been used as a basis for allocating frequency for those events observed post-marketing.

Immune system disorders
Very rare: Immediate hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema and urticaria

Eye Disorders
Very common: Superficial punctate keratopathy

This did not necessitate an early termination of therapy and healed without apparent sequelae

Common: Transient mild stinging of the eye occurring immediately following application, conjunctivitis

Rare: Blepharitis

Local irritation and inflammation such as blepharitis and conjunctivitis have been reported in patients receiving Zovirax Ophthalmic Ointment.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie.

4.9 Overdose

No untoward effects would be expected if the entire content of the tube containing 135mg of acyclovir were ingested orally.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: group Anti infective, ATC code S01AD03

Aciclovir is an antiviral agent which is highly active *in vitro* against Herpes simplex (HSV), types I and II and varicella zoster viruses.

Aciclovir is phosphorylated to the active compound aciclovir triphosphate after entry into a Herpes infected cell. The first step in this process requires the presence of the HSV coded thymidine kinase. Aciclovir triphosphate acts as an inhibitor of and substrate for the herpes specified DNA polymerase preventing further viral DNA synthesis without affecting normal cellular processes.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Aciclovir is rapidly absorbed from the eye ointment through the corneal epithelium and superficial ocular tissues with the result that viraltoxic concentrations are achieved in the aqueous humor. It has not been possible to detect aciclovir in the blood by existing methods after topical application to the eye. However, trace quantities may be measured in the urine. These levels are not clinically significant.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Fertility
There is no information on the effect of aciclovir oral formulations or IV for infusion on human female fertility. In a study of 20 male patients with normal sperm count, oral aciclovir administered at doses of up to 1g per day for up to six months has been shown to have no clinically significant effect on sperm count, motility or morphology.

NON-CLINICAL INFORMATION

Mutagenicity
The results of a wide range of mutagenicity tests *in vitro* and *in vivo* indicate that aciclovir is unlikely to pose a genetic risk to man.

Carcinogenicity
Aciclovir was not found to be carcinogenic in long-term studies in the rat and the mouse.

Fertility
Largely reversible adverse effects on spermatogenesis in association with overall toxicity in rats and dogs have been reported only at doses of aciclovir greatly in excess of those employed therapeutically. Two-generation studies in mice did not reveal any effect of (orally administered) aciclovir on fertility.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

White petrolatum.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C.
Discard one month after opening.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

White to pale yellow sterile ointment contained in a multilayer aluminium laminate tube with a tamper evident screw cap.

Pack sizes 4.5 g tube.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

GlaxoSmithKline (Ireland) Limited
12 Riverwalk
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24
Ireland

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA1077/084/002

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10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

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