MEVIROX® 250 mg, powder for solution for injection
MEVIROX® 500 mg, powder for solution for injection
Aciclovir

Read all of this leaflet carefully before using this medicine because it contains important information for you.
· Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
· if you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
· This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
· If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes also any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet ?

1. WHAT IS MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) AND IN WHICH CASE IS IT USED ?

Pharmacotherapeutic Class : DIRECT-ACTING ANTIVIRALS, ATC code : J05AB01.
This medication is a direct-acting anti-viral (it destroys or stops the growth of viruses that cause shingles or herpes).
It is used to treat certain infections caused by the herpes virus and certain forms of chickenpox and shingles (a viral disease characterized by a painful rash, for example, in the eye).

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) ?

Never take MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) :
·If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to aciclovir (the active substance), valaciclovir, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine, listed in section 6.

Warnings and precautions
Tell your doctor :
· If you suffer from kidney failure (impaired kidney function)
· If you have kidney pain in the back, it could be a sign of kidney failure.
(impaired kidney function), discontinuation of treatment may be considered
In some cases, especially if you have kidney failure or if you are elderly, your doctor may change the doses usually recommended.
In particular in elderly patients and patients with renal impairment, sufficient water intake should be provided for the duration of the treatment (drinks or infusion).
If you are taking intravenous aciclovir or taking high doses of oral aciclovir, it is also necessary to keep yourself hydrated regularly.
Intravenous administration should be given as an infusion over at least one hour to avoid precipitation of aciclovir in the kidneys ; rapid injections should be avoided. In case of administration in an infusion bag, it is necessary to dilute the reconstituted solution (see section « Information for healthcare professionals »).
MEVIROX 250 mg, powder for solution for injection (IV), contains sodium : to be taken into account in patients controlling their dietary sodium intake.
MEVIROX 500 mg, powder for solution for injection (IV), contains sodium : to be taken into account in patients controlling their dietary sodium intake.

Children
Not applicable.

Other medicines and MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV)
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.
Concomitant use of other medicines that are toxic to the kidney increases the risk of kidney failure. Caution is advised when administering IV aciclovir with other nephrotoxic medicines.
In the event of combined intravenous treatment, it is preferable to avoid injecting several medicines at the same time in the same tubing or a fortiori to mix them in the same infusion. Indeed, this medication can crystallize when it is combined with certain products.
If lithium (a medicine used to regulate mood) is administered concomitantly with high doses of aciclovir intravenously, the concentration of lithium in the blood will be closely monitored due to the risk of lithium toxicity.
In case of concomitant administration of aciclovir with theophylline (a medicine used to treat asthma and certain respiratory diseases), a measurement of the concentration of theophylline in the blood may be requested by your doctor.

MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) with food, drinks and alcohol
Not applicable.

Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning pregnancy, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.
This medicine will only be used during pregnancy when needed.
If you discover that you are pregnant during treatment, tell your doctor, as only he can judge whether it is necessary to continue it.
When intravenous therapy is required, breastfeeding should be discontinued.

Driving and using machines
Your doctor will assess your ability to drive and use machines depending on your condition and on certain side effects, especially on the nervous system, which may occur during treatment (see section 4: « Possible side effects »).

MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) contain sodium

3. HOW TO TAKE MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV)?

Always use this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if in doubt.

Dosage
The dosage is determined according to the condition being treated, the age and weight of the patient:
· in adults: 5 to 10 mg / kg every 8 hours,
· in children over 3 months: the dosage will be calculated according to the surface of the body, i.e. 250 to 500 mg / m^2 every 8 hours,
· in newborns: 20 mg / kg every 8 hours.
Caution is advised when administering IV aciclovir infusion to patients with impaired renal function.
If you have kidney failure, your doctor will need to adjust the dose of this medicine.
If you are an elderly person, a dose adjustment will also be considered by your doctor because the kidney function of the elderly may be reduced.
Dosage adjustment should also be considered in obese patients and particularly in those with renal impairment and the elderly.
Appropriate dosage adjustment is necessary in infants and children with impaired renal function depending on the degree of renal impairment (see section « In patients with renal impairment »).
In all cases, it is important that you stay hydrated during the course of treatment to reduce the risk of kidney function damage.
Method of administration
This medicine will be given to you by a healthcare professional who will inject it into a vein (strict intravenous use -IV).
Duration of treatment
The duration of treatment is usually 5 to 10 days. It will be adapted according to the patient's condition and his response to treatment.
In case of neonatal herpes depending on the indication, this duration can be 14 or 21 days.

If you have taken more MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) than you should
See your doctor immediately.
In certain situations (for example if you have kidney failure), neurological problems may occur (see section 4: « Possible side effects »).

If you forget to take MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV)
Not applicable.

If you stop taking MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV)
Not applicable.
If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for more information.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS ?

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.
These side effects are classified from the most frequently to the most rarely observed.

Commonly observed side effects :
· **Digestive disorders :** nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain.
· **Hepatic disorders :** increases in serum bilirubin and liver enzymes (substances produced by the liver). These effects usually go away when treatment is stopped.
· **Skin Reactions :** pruritus (itching), rash (of the skin), hives (rash the same as that caused by the stinging nettle).
· **kidney disorders :** increased urea and creatinine in the blood (a sign of impaired kidney function).
·**General disorders :** inflammatory skin lesions or phlebitis (formation of a blood clot in a vein) where the medicine was injected, which can exceptionally lead to necrosis (destruction of cells), in the event of extravasation (leakage of the medicine outside the vein into which it is injected) or insufficient dilution of the solution. These inflammatory lesions are related to the alkaline pH of this medicine.

Side effects with unknown frequency (which cannot be estimated from the available data) :
· **Blood disorders :** thrombocytopenia (decrease in platelets - cells allowing the blood to clot) and leukopenia (decrease in white blood cells in the blood).
· **Neuropsychic disorders :**
-Headache, dizziness.
- Balance disorders, ataxia (walking disorders and lack of coordination) and dysarthria (slowness of speech and joint disorder) which can be observed together or in isolation and testify to a cerebellar syndrome (together signs and symptoms characteristic of more or less serious damage to the cerebellum, part of the brain used for balance).
- Sometimes severe neurological disorders which may reveal encephalopathy (brain disorder) and include confusion, restlessness, tremors, myoclonus (involuntary muscle contractions), convulsions, hallucinations, psychosis (personality disorders), drowsiness, coma. These neurological signs are usually seen in patients with renal impairment who received doses higher than the recommended dosage or in elderly patients (see section « Warnings and precautions »). These effects usually go away when treatment is stopped.
The presence of these symptoms may be due to an overdose, promptly talk to your doctor.
· **Liver disorders :** acute liver damage.
· **Respiratory disorders :** dyspnea (breathing difficulties).
· **Immune system disorders :** anaphylactic reactions (generalized allergic reaction).
· **Skin reactions :** angioedema (sudden swelling of the face and neck).
· **Kidney disorders :** acute renal failure, especially in the elderly or renal failure if the dosage is exceeded, back pain in the kidneys which may be associated with renal failure (see also section "Warnings and precautions" and for more information see below, section « Information intended exclusively for healthcare professionals »).
The risk of acute renal failure is favored by any situation of overdose and / or dehydration, or by the combination with medicines toxic to the kidney.
These risk factors should be looked for, regardless of the patient's age. The risk of renal failure can be avoided by respecting the dosages, the precautions for use (in particular maintaining adequate hydration) and a slow speed of administration.
· **Miscellaneous effects :** fatigue, fever.

Reporting side effects
If you get any side effects talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This also applies to any side effects that are not mentioned in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system : CNPV (Centre National de Pharmacovigilance).
By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) ?

Store away from light at a temperature below 25 ° C.
Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the package. The expiration date refers to the last day of that month.
Do not throw any medicines to wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist to dispose of medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. CONTENT OF THE PACKAGING AND OTHER INFORMATION

What MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) contains

	Mévirox 250 mg	Mévirox 500 mg
Substance active : Aciclovir	250 mg	500 mg
excipients	hydroxyde de sodium	

What does MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV) look like and content of the outer packaging ?
For Mevirox 250mg
This medication is in the form of powder for solution for injection (IV). Box of 01 bottle and 10 bottles.
For Mevirox 500mg
This medication is in the form of powder for solution for injection (IV). Box of 01 bottle.
Supply and prescription Condition: List I
M.A N°:
Mevirox 250mg, Box of 1 vials : 9233151
Mevirox 250mg, Box of 10 vials: 9233154 H
Mevirox 500mg, Box of 1 vials: 9233152

Marketing Autorisation Holder and Manufacturer
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This leaflet was last reviewed: 02/2021

THIS IS A MEDICINE

· A medicine is a product but not like the others.
· A medicine is a product that affects your health and its consumption without compliance to the prescription exposes you to danger.
· Strictly follow your doctor's prescription and directions for use, follow the advice of your pharmacist.
· Your doctor and pharmacist are familiar with the medicine, its indications and contraindications.
· Do not stop treatment on your own initiative during the prescribed period.
· Do not take it again, do not increase the doses without consulting your doctor.

Keep medicines out of the reach of children

Information intended exclusively for healthcare professionals
The following information is intended exclusively for healthcare professionals.

Take special care with, powder for solution for injection (IV):
In case of combined intravenous treatment, it is preferable to avoid injecting several medicines at the same time in the same tubing or a fortiori to mix them in the same infusion. Indeed, this medication can crystallize when it is combined with certain products.

Method of administration
Strict intravenous use:
The stability of the product at room temperature and protected from light has been verified for the following infusion fluids:
· sodium chloride solution (0,45 et 0,9 %),
· sodium chloride solution (0,18 %) and glucose (4 %),
· sodium chloride solution (0,45 %) and glucose (2,5 %),
· sodium lactate solution (Hartmann's solution).
Reconstitution and dilution of aciclovir should take place immediately prior to injection.
The reconstituted solutions, partially used during one administration, must not be re-used during the following injections.
The solution will not be used if cloudiness or crystallization appears. It should not be refrigerated.
The reconstituted aciclovir solution for IV infusion has an approximate pH of 11.0 and should not be administered orally.

Method of use
Reconstitute the contents of the MEVIROX 250 mg vial with 10 ml of water for injections or isotonic sodium chloride solution.
Reconstitute the contents of the MEVIROX 500 mg vial with 20 ml of water for injections or isotonic sodium chloride solution
After reconstitution with water for injection, the pH is between 10.7 and 11.7.
Once reconstituted, the solution can be administered by IV in **1 hour minimum**, by infusion with an infusion bag after dilution or with a constant flow pump.
Methods of administration **with an infusion bag**

When administered with an infusion bag, the reconstituted solution should be diluted in a sufficient volume of infusion fluid to achieve a maximum aciclovir concentration of 5 mg per ml of infusion fluid (see sections 4.4 and 4.8).	
1) Reconstituting the contents of the MEVIROX vial	
Reconstitution liquid	Water for injection or isotonic sodium chloride solution
Reconstitution volume	25 mg/mL
Concentration after reconstitution	10 mL
2) Dilution in the infusion bag *	
Maximum aciclovir concentration after dilution NB: The number of bags depends on the dose (see examples below).	5 mg/mL
3) Administration with the infusion bag	
Infusion time	**1 hour minimum**

* For adults, it is recommended to use infusion bags of 100 mL of infusion fluid, even if the obtained concentration of aciclovir is much less than 5 mg / mL.
Thus, a 100 mL infusion bag can be used for a dose between 250 and 500 mg of MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV).
A second bag should be used for doses greater than 500 mg and up to 1000 mg.
For children and newborns, in order to have a minimum infusion volume, it is recommended to perform the dilution on the basis of 4 mL of reconstituted solution (corresponding to a dose of 100 mg of aciclovir), to be added in 20 mL of infusion fluid.
· Examples of recommendations for **MEVIROX 250 mg, powder for solution for injection (IV)**
- For an adult:

Aciclovir dose	Required number of vials to be reconstituted	Number of 100 mL bags of infusion fluid to be used	Volume to withdraw from the reconstituted solution vial	Aciclovir concentration obtained in the bag (s)
Ex of a dose of 100 mg	1 vial of 250 mg	1	4 mL	1 mg/mL
Ex of a dose of 250 mg	1 vial of 250 mg	1	10 mL	2,5 mg/mL

For doses ≥ 500 mg, also favor the use of 500 mg vials, in addition to 250 mg vials, in order to adapt the necessary number of vials.
-Case of a child and newborn:

Aciclovir dose	Required number of vials to be reconstituted	Number of 20 mL bags of infusion fluid to be used	Volume to withdraw from the reconstituted solution vial	Aciclovir concentration obtained in the bag (s)
Ex of a dose of 50 mg	1 vial of 250 mg	1	2 mL	2,5 mg/mL
Ex of a dose of 100 mg	1 vial of 250 mg	1	4 mL	5 mg/mL
Ex of a dose of 250 mg	1 vial of 250 mg	3	for example: · 4 mL to be injected into a 1st bag · 4 mL to be injected into a 2nd bag · 2 mL to be injected into a 3rd bag	5 mg/mL 5 mg/mL 2,5 mg/mL

· Examples of recommendations for MEVIROX 500 mg, powder for solution for injection (IV):
- For an adult:

Aciclovir dose	Required number of vials to be reconstituted	Number of 100 mL bags of infusion fluid to use	Volume to withdraw from the reconstituted solution vial	Aciclovir concentration obtained in the bag (s)
Ex a dose of 350 mg	1 vial of 500 mg	1	14 mL	3,5 mg/mL
Ex a dose of 500 mg	1 vial of 500 mg	1	20 mL	5 mg/mL
Ex a dose of 1000 mg	2 vial of 500 mg	2	· 20 mL to be injected into a 1st bag · 20 mL to be injected into a 2nd bag	5 mg/mL 5 mg/mL

For doses ≤ 250 mg, use 250 mg vials.
- For a child and a newborn:

Aciclovir dose	Required number of vials to be reconstituted	Number of pockets of 20 ml of infusion fluid to use	Volume to withdraw from the reconstituted solution vial	Aciclovir concentration obtained in the bag (s)
Ex of a dose of 300 mg	1 vial of 500 mg	3	for example · 4 mL to be injected into a 1st bag · 4 mL to be injected into a 2nd bag · 4 mL to be injected into a 3rd bag	5 mg/mL 5 mg/mL 5 mg/mL

These tables are given for information only as examples. Indeed, the dosage of MEVIROX, powder for solution for injection (IV), the volume of the infusion bag, as well as the volume to be withdrawn of the reconstituted solution is to be determined and adapted on a case-by-case basis according to the prescribed dosage of MEVIROX injectable while taking care **not to exceed the maximum aciclovir concentration of 5 mg / mL in the bag.**
Administration methods **with constant flow pump**

3) Reconstituting the contents of the MEVIROX vial	
Reconstitution liquid	Water for injection or sodium chloride solution isotonique
Reconstitution volume	10 mL
Concentration after reconstitution	25 mg/mL
4) Administration with constant flow pump	
Infusion time	**1 hour minimum**

Acute renal failure :
The risk of acute renal failure is favored by any situation of overdose and / or dehydration, or by the combination with medicines toxic to the kidney. These risk factors should be looked for, regardless of the patient's age. The risk of renal failure can be avoided by respecting the dosages, the precautions for use (in particular the maintenance of adequate hydration) and a slow rate of administration (see sections « Warnings and precautions » and « Method of administration »).

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