



Package leaflet:
Information for the user

Lamivudine 100 mg film-coated tablets

lamivudine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking 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 or pharmacist.
- 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 or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Lamivudine is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Lamivudine
3. How to take Lamivudine
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Lamivudine
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Lamivudine is and what it is used for

The active ingredient in Lamivudine film-coated tablets is lamivudine.

Lamivudine is used to treat long term (chronic) hepatitis B infection in adults.

Lamivudine is an anti-viral medicine that suppresses the hepatitis B virus and belongs to a group of medicines called *nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs)*.

Hepatitis B is a virus which infects the liver, causes long term (chronic) infection, and can lead to liver damage. Lamivudine can be used in people whose liver is damaged, but still functions normally (compensated liver disease) and in combination with other medicines in people whose liver is damaged and does not function normally (decompensated liver disease).

Treatment with Lamivudine can reduce the amount of hepatitis B virus in your body. This should lead to a reduction in liver damage and an improvement in your liver function. Not everyone responds to treatment with Lamivudine in the same way. Your doctor will monitor the effectiveness of your treatment with regular blood tests.

2. What you need to know before you take Lamivudine

Do not take Lamivudine:

- if you are **allergic** to lamivudine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
Check with your doctor if you think this applies to you.

Warnings and precautions

Some people taking Lamivudine or other similar medicines are more at risk of serious side effects. You need to be aware of the extra risks:

- if you have ever had other types of **liver disease**, such as hepatitis C
- if you're seriously **overweight** (especially if you're a woman)

Talk to your doctor if any of these apply to you. You may need extra check-ups, including blood tests, while you're taking your medicine. **See Section 4** for more information about the risks.

Don't stop taking Lamivudine without your doctor's advice, as there is a risk of your hepatitis getting worse. When you stop taking Lamivudine your doctor will monitor you for at least four months to check for any problems. This will mean taking blood samples to check for any raised liver enzyme levels, which may indicate liver damage. See section 3 for more information about how to take Lamivudine.

Protect other people

Hepatitis B infection is spread by sexual contact with someone who has the infection, or by transfer of infected blood (for example, by sharing injection needles). Lamivudine will not stop you passing hepatitis B infection on to other people. To protect other people from becoming infected with hepatitis B:

- **Use a condom** when you have oral or penetrative sex
- **Don't risk blood transfer** — for example, don't share needles.

Other medicines and Lamivudine

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines, including herbal medicines or other medicines you bought without a prescription.

Remember to tell your doctor or pharmacist if you begin taking a new medicine while you're taking Lamivudine.

These medicines should not be used with Lamivudine:

- medicines (usually liquids) containing sorbitol and other sugar alcohols (such as xylitol, mannitol, lactitol or maltitol), if taken regularly
- other medicines containing lamivudine, used to treat **HIV infection** (sometimes called the AIDS virus)
- emtricitabine used to treat **HIV** or **hepatitis B infection**
- cladribine, used to treat **hairly cell leukaemia**

Tell your doctor if you're being treated with any of these.

Pregnancy

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby:

Talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits of taking Lamivudine during your pregnancy. Do not stop treatment with Lamivudine without your doctor's advice.

Breast-feeding

Lamivudine can pass into breast milk. If you are breast-feeding, or thinking about breast-feeding: **Talk to your doctor** before you take Lamivudine.

Driving and using machines

Lamivudine may make you feel tired, which could affect your ability to drive or use machines. Do not drive or use machines unless you are sure you are not affected.

Lamivudine Tablets contain sodium

This medicine contains less than 1mmol sodium (23mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium free'

3. How to take Lamivudine

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you to. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Stay in regular contact with your doctor

Lamivudine helps to control your hepatitis B infection. You need to keep taking it every day to control your infection and stop your illness getting worse.

Keep in touch with your doctor, and don't stop taking Lamivudine without your doctor's advice.

How much to take

The usual dose of Lamivudine is one tablet (100 mg lamivudine) once a day.

Your doctor may prescribe a lower dose if you have problems with your kidneys. An oral solution of lamivudine is available for people who need a lower than usual dose, or who can't take tablets.

Talk to your doctor if this applies to you.

If you are already taking another medicine that contains lamivudine for HIV infection, your doctor will continue to treat you with the higher dose, (usually 150 mg twice a day), because the dose of lamivudine in Lamivudine (100 mg) is not enough to treat HIV infection. If you are planning to change your HIV treatment, discuss this change with your doctor first.

Swallow the tablet whole, with some water.
Lamivudine can be taken with or without food.

If you take more Lamivudine than you should

If you accidentally take too much Lamivudine, tell your doctor or your pharmacist, or contact your nearest hospital emergency department for further advice. If possible, show them the Lamivudine pack.

If you forget to take Lamivudine

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Then continue your treatment as before. Don't take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

Don't stop taking Lamivudine

You must not stop taking Lamivudine without consulting your doctor. There is a risk of your hepatitis getting worse (see section 2). When you stop taking Lamivudine your doctor will monitor you for at least four months to check for any problems. This will mean taking blood samples to check for any raised liver enzyme levels, which may indicate liver damage.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Side effects that were commonly reported in Lamivudine clinical trials were tiredness, respiratory tract infections, throat discomfort, headache, stomach discomfort and pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, increases in liver enzymes and enzymes produced in the muscles (see below).

Allergic reaction

These are rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people). Signs include:

- swelling of eyelids, face or lips
- difficulty swallowing or breathing

Contact a doctor immediately if you get these symptoms. **Stop taking Lamivudine.**

Side effects thought to be caused by Lamivudine

A very common side effect (these may affect more than 1 in 10 people) which may show up in blood tests is:

- an increase in the level of some liver enzymes (*transaminases*), which may be sign of inflammation or damage in the liver.

A common side effect (these may affect up to 1 in 10 people) is:

- cramps and muscle pains
- skin rash or 'hives' anywhere on the body

A common side effect which may show up in blood tests is:

- an increase in the level of an enzyme produced in the muscles (*creatine phosphokinase*) which may be a sign that body tissue is damaged.

A very rare side effect (these may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people) is:

- lactic acidosis (excess lactic acid in the blood)

Other side effects

Other side effects have occurred in a very small number of people but their exact frequency is unknown

- breakdown of muscle tissue
- a worsening of liver disease after Lamivudine is stopped or during treatment if the hepatitis B virus becomes resistant to Lamivudine. This can be fatal in some people.

A side effect which may show up in blood tests is:

- a decrease in the number of cells involved in blood clotting (*thrombocytopenia*).

If you get any side effects

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via Yellow Card Scheme Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App

Store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Lamivudine

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 label and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Lamivudine contains

- The active substance is lamivudine. Each film-coated tablet contains 100 mg of lamivudine.
- The other ingredients are:
Tablet core: Cellulose, microcrystalline (Grade 101), sodium starch glycolate (Type A), Cellulose, microcrystalline (Grade 102), magnesium stearate
Film-coat: Hypromellose 2910 (E464), macrogol (1521), titanium dioxide (E171), polysorbate 80 (E433), yellow iron oxide (E172) and iron oxide (E172).

What Lamivudine looks like and contents of the pack

Film-coated tablet

Butterscotch coloured, film-coated, capsule shaped, biconvex tablets, debossed with 'L100' on one side and plain on the other side. The size is 11.1 mm X 5.6 mm.

Lamivudine film-coated tablets are available in blister packs (i.e. clear PVC – Aluminium foil blister).

Pack sizes:

Blister pack: 28 film-coated tablets

Marketing Authorisation Holder

Milpharm Limited
Ares Block, Odyssey Business Park
West End Road
South Ruislip HA4 6QD
United Kingdom

Manufacturer

APL Swift Services (Malta) Limited
HF26, Hal Far Industrial Estate, Hal Far
Birzebbugia, BBG 3000
Malta

or

Milpharm Limited
Ares Block, Odyssey Business Park
West End Road
South Ruislip HA4 6QD
United Kingdom

or

Generis Farmaceutica, S.A.,
Rua Joao de Deua, n.º 19,
Venda Nova, 2700-487
Amadora, Portugal

This leaflet was last revised in 01/2023.