



LAMIVUDINE DRUG INFORMATION FOR THE PARENT/CAREGIVER

*** Please review and send home with the baby's caregiver ***

LAMIVUDINE (3TC)

WHY is this medication being prescribed for your baby?

- In addition to zidovudine, additional antiretroviral medications which slow the growth of the HIV virus, may be prescribed for the baby to help prevent the baby from getting HIV infection.
- Lamivudine is given as part of a protocol in which the newborn receives 2 doses by mouth every 12 hours for two weeks

HOW should this medication be taken?

Instructions: Give before, during, or after a feed.

The dose of lamivudine liquid for your baby is _____ mg (which is _____ mL) given at the following times: _____ (am / pm) _____ (am / pm)

Stop lamivudine on: _____

- Lamivudine is available as a strawberry-banana flavored solution. Each milliliter (mL) contains 10 mg of the medication (written as 10 mg/mL on the label). Each dose for a newborn is less than 1 mL.
- Lamivudine should be given every 12 hours at the same times each day as in the above schedule.

Always measure each dose with the specially marked oral syringe provided.

- Lamivudine can be given before, after or during a feed. To give the medicine, gently place the oral syringe in the baby's mouth just inside the cheek and give 4 or 5 gentle pushes on the plunger of the syringe. Allow the baby to swallow the liquid between pushes on the plunger to ensure that the baby does not gag or choke. Ensure that the baby receives the full dose of lamivudine.
- It is not a good idea to mix lamivudine with the baby's formula. The reason is that if the baby does not drink all of the formula, he/she will not get the full dose.
- Store the medication at room temperature. *Do not store in your bathroom as heat and moisture may cause the medicine to lose its effectiveness.*
- Keep out of the reach of children. The doctor or the Poison Control Centre should be contacted in the event of accidental ingestion of this or any other drug.

What should you do if your baby MISSES a dose?

- If you forget to give your baby his/her dose of lamivudine, give it to him/her as soon as possible. However, if it is time for your baby's next dose, do NOT double the dose, just carry on with the regular schedule.
- If your baby vomits within 15 minutes of the dose, give another dose if possible. If it is more than 15 minutes after the dose, do NOT give another dose just wait until the next regular dose.
- ****It is very important not to miss any doses of this medicine.** If you are having trouble remembering to give this medication, you may find it helpful to set an alarm on your watch or phone to help to remind you.

What POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS can this medication cause?

- As with any medication, side effects can rarely occur. Mild anemia (low red blood cells) and neutropenia (low white blood cells) have been noted in some babies receiving lamivudine. These conditions are usually mild and resolve when the medication dosage is reduced or the medication is discontinued.
- Blood tests will also be done on your baby at 2 and 4 weeks after birth to check for these side effects. ****It is very important to keep all follow-up medical appointments for the baby.**
- Do not stop a medication or make changes to your baby's treatment unless recommended by your doctor.
- Lamivudine can interact with other medications. It is important that your physician or pharmacist know about other prescription and non-prescription medications your baby is taking. Acetaminophen (Atasol®, Tempra®, and Tylenol®) may be given safely with lamivudine.

Oral Syringes and Medication

- You will be given oral lamivudine liquid to take home when discharged from the hospital. The volume provided will be more than enough to complete the two weeks of therapy.
- You will be given a supply of oral syringes. Wash with soap and water and rinse each syringe between uses with previously boiled water 2-3 times until syringe is clean and no longer sticky. If you run out of syringes you may contact your local public health nurse to obtain a replacement supply.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE MEDICATIONS YOU CAN CALL THE PHARMACIST AT THE OAK TREE CLINIC IN VANCOUVER (604-875-2212)

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evenings or weekends you can call the Centre for Excellence in HIV Pharmacy Hotline at 1-888-511-6222. This is a toll-free number from anywhere in B.C.