

GANCICLOVIR (injection)

gan-sye-kloe-veer

What does it do?

Ganciclovir is used to treat and prevent viral infections caused by cytomegalovirus (CMV).

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have blood or kidney problems or have ever had a seizure.
- *Ganciclovir* is not recommended during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Women receiving *ganciclovir* should use effective contraception (eg oral contraceptive pill or condoms) during treatment. Men receiving *ganciclovir* should use barrier contraception (eg condoms) during the course of *ganciclovir* and for 3 months afterwards.
- *Ganciclovir* can affect fertility in both men and women – discuss with your doctor.

How is it given?

Ganciclovir is given as a slow infusion into a vein.

What if you forget a dose?

Ganciclovir will be given to you by a health professional. If you are unable to attend an appointment, contact your health professional as soon as possible.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *ganciclovir* including:

- trimethoprim

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding Changes in vision Seizures | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Unusual behaviour or thinking Confusion, drowsiness or weakness Tiredness, dizziness, pale skin | Tell your doctor |
| Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes Headache, trouble sleeping, tremor Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite Irritation or pain at injection site | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *ganciclovir* to monitor its effects on your blood and kidneys.