

ABACAVIR = ABC
(Abac®, Abamune®, Ziagen®...)

Prescription under medical supervision

Therapeutic action

- Antiretroviral, HIV-1 and HIV-2 nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor

Indications

- HIV-1 or HIV-2 infection, in combination with other antiretroviral drugs

Presentation

- 300 mg tablet
- 20 mg/ml oral solution, with oral dosing syringe

Dosage

- Child less than 25 kg: 16 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses, without exceeding 600 mg/day
- Child ≥ 25 kg and adult: 600 mg/day in 2 divided doses

Weight	20 mg/ml oral solution	300 mg tablet
3 to 5 kg	3 ml x 2	-
6 to 9 kg	4 ml x 2	-
10 to 13 kg	6 ml x 2	-
14 to 19 kg	-	1/2 tab x 2
20 to 24 kg	-	1 tab AM and 1/2 tab PM
≥ 25 kg	-	1 tab x 2

Duration: depending on the efficacy and tolerance of abacavir.

Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Do not administer to patients with severe hepatic impairment or history of severe intolerance to abacavir that led to discontinuation of treatment.
- May cause:
 - hypersensitivity reactions: skin rash, gastrointestinal disturbances (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain), cough, dyspnoea, malaise, headache, lethargy, oedema, lymphadenopathy, hypotension, myalgia, arthralgia, renal impairment;
 - lactic acidosis and hepatic disorders.
- In all these cases, stop taking abacavir immediately and permanently.
- Pregnancy: avoid, except if there is no therapeutic alternative

Remarks

- Tablets are not scored. When half a tablet is required, use a cutter or a tablet cutter to cut the tablet into two equal parts.
- Also comes in fixed-dose combination tablets containing abacavir-lamivudine (Epzicom®, etc.) and abacavir-zidovudine-lamivudine (Trizivir®, etc.).
- Storage: below 30°C
Once opened, oral solution kept below 30°C may be stored for a maximum of 2 months.