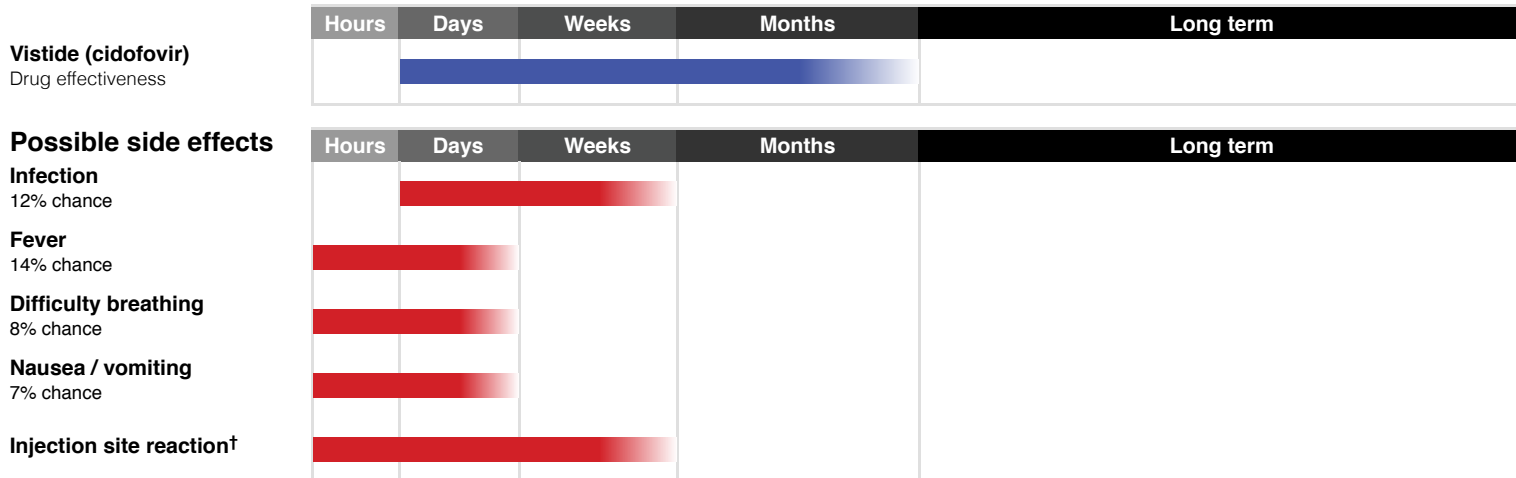


Vistide (cidofovir) basics

Treats eye infection related to AIDS. Vistide (cidofovir) is an injectable medication used to treat an AIDS-related viral infection of the eyes.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Vistide (cidofovir) is given as an infusion into your vein which takes about 1 hour.
- Do not take Vistide (cidofovir) if you are taking any drugs that can cause kidney problems. There are many drugs that can do this. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- Drink plenty of liquids while taking Vistide (cidofovir) (unless your doctor tells you otherwise).
- Use birth control while taking Vistide (cidofovir) and for 1 month after stopping it.
- You'll also be given a medicine, probenecid, while taking Vistide (cidofovir), which protects your kidneys. Take that exactly how your doctor tells you.
- Keep taking your HIV medicines while taking Vistide (cidofovir).

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Kidney problems

Kidney damage is a major concern with Vistide (cidofovir) therapy. Damage can happen with as few as 1 or 2 doses of Vistide (cidofovir). To lower the risk of damage, your doctor will give you fluids and a drug called probenecid before each Vistide (cidofovir) infusion.

Low white blood cell counts

Vistide (cidofovir) can lower your white blood cell count. This can put you at a greater risk for infection. Your doctor will do frequent blood tests to monitor this during therapy.

Cancer

In some animal studies, Vistide (cidofovir) was shown to cause cancer. Your doctor will perform several tests to keep a close eye on this during Vistide (cidofovir) therapy.