

Zirgan (ganciclovir) basics

Treats eye herpes (herpetic keratitis). Zirgan (ganciclovir) is a first-choice medication for treating mild cases of herpes infections in the eye.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Zirgan (ganciclovir) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Eye irritation					
Blurry vision					
Eye redness					
Punctate keratitis (eye problem)					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Wash your hands before and after using Zirgan (ganciclovir). Tilt your head back and place a drop into the infected eye. Close your eye, and place pressure on the inside corner of that eye for 1 to 2 minutes.
- Don't touch the tip of the container on anything.
- Don't wear contacts while using Zirgan (ganciclovir).
- Make sure to keep Zirgan (ganciclovir) in a cool place. Don't place Zirgan (ganciclovir) in the freezer.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

For the eyes only

Zirgan (ganciclovir) should only be used in the eye. Make sure the tip of the container doesn't touch your eye or any other surfaces.

No contact lenses

Don't wear contact lenses while using Zirgan (ganciclovir) until your eye ulcers are gone.

Eye discomfort

Zirgan (ganciclovir) can cause some eye discomfort. Blurry vision is common, but if you begin to have severe discomfort or can't see, let your doctor know immediately.