

ABACAVIR/LAMIVUDINE (ABC/3TC) (120MG/60MG) DISPERSIBLE, SCORED TABLETS

INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

INTRODUCTION



ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets are an optimal, combined formulation (i.e., a fixed-dose combination) of ABC and 3TC single formulations for the treatment of HIV in children. They are used in combination with other ARVs and have the following advantages over single ABC and 3TC formulations:

- They only need to be administered once a day, this significantly decreases the pill burden and improves adherence.
- They are scored and dispersible – this means that they can be split/crushed and mixed with a small amount of water for children who cannot swallow whole tablets.

REPLACING SINGLE FORMULATIONS



PAEDIATRIC PRODUCT	CHILD'S WEIGHT: 3 - 24.9Kg
The child is currently on a combination of one of these products	Should the product be replaced by ABC/3TC 120mg/60mg dispersible tablets?
ABC (20mg/ml) oral solution	<h1>YES</h1>
3TC (10mg/ml) oral solution	
ABC (60mg) dispersible tablet	

ELIGIBILITY



Children who weigh between **3 – 24.9kg** can take ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets.

- Switch children who are already on paediatric ABC and 3TC oral solutions or paediatric tablets to the ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets.
- Initiate children who are new on ART (first-line regimen) on ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets instead of single formulations.

ADMINISTRATION


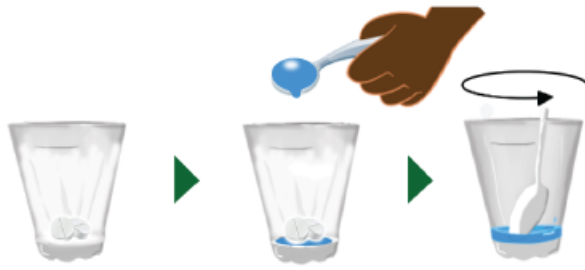




ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets can be mixed with a small amount of water (10ml) before administration, and they can be split/crushed to accommodate dosing where half a tablet is required.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets **can also be swallowed whole** (without crushing or mixing the tablets with water) for children who are able to swallow tablets.

HOW TO ADMINISTER ABC/3TC DISPERSIBLE, SCORED TABLETS WITH WATER

ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets can be dissolved and mixed in a small amount of water prior to administration. ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets can also be split/crushed before mixing them with water.

STEP 1: DETERMINE THE DOSE	STEP 2: PREPARE THE ABC/3TC MIXTURE	STEP 3: GIVE THE MIXTURE TO THE CHILD												
<p>Add the correct number of ABC/3TC tablets to a clean, empty glass or cup based on the child's weight. (See Dosing Table)</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="325 1691 672 1958"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weight</th> <th>No. of ABC/3TC (120/60 mg) Daily Tablets</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3–5.9kg</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6–9.9kg</td> <td>1.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10–13.9kg</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14–19.9kg</td> <td>2.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20–24.9kg</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>TIP: If you are administering 1.5 or 2.5 tablets, you can easily split the ABC/3TC tablet down the middle on the solid line.</p>	Weight	No. of ABC/3TC (120/60 mg) Daily Tablets	3–5.9kg	1	6–9.9kg	1.5	10–13.9kg	2	14–19.9kg	2.5	20–24.9kg	3	<p>Add 10mL (2 teaspoons) of clean water into the glass or cup and stir until the tablets dissolve.</p>  <p>TIP: If the tablets do not dissolve completely (i.e., they lump together), stir and slowly add another 10ml (2 teaspoons) of extra water until the tablets fully dissolve.</p>	<p>Give the medicine to the child to drink. Make sure they drink all the medicine right away or within a maximum of 30 minutes.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OPTION 1: The child can drink the mixture directly from the glass.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>OPTION 2: Feed the mixture to the child using a spoon.</p> </div>  </div> <p>TIP: If any medicine remains in the glass, add a little more water to the glass and give it to the child. Repeat until no medicine remains in the glass.</p>
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POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:



If a patient has never experienced any side effects on their current ABC and 3TC single formulations, they will not experience any adverse effects from the **ABC/3TC dispersible, scored tablets which are safe**. The following **side-effects are rare** but can occur in patients newly initiated on any ABC and 3TC formulations:

- Hypersensitivity reactions to ABC can occur. These are rare but can occur within the first 6 weeks of therapy. ABC must be stopped permanently if a hypersensitivity reaction is suspected.
- 3TC can cause pure red cell aplasia which presents as anaemia, but this is very rare.

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON HOW AND WHEN TO USE THIS FORMULATION PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

National HIV and TB Care Worker Hotline: 0800 212 506 or 021 406 6782
National HIV and TB Care Worker Hotline: 071 840 157
- This helpline can be contacted via SMS / Please Call Me / WhatsApp

Right To Care Paediatric, Adolescent and Adult HIV Helpline: 082 352 6642
- This helpline can be contacted via SMS / Please Call Me / WhatsApp
KZN Paediatric Hotline: 0800 006 603

Weight based dosing for all other paediatric formulations are available on KnowledgeHub in the 2019 ART Clinical Guidelines for the Management of HIV in Adults, Pregnancy, Adolescents, Children, Infants and Neonates, October 2019