

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

ANTIVIRALS

Acyclovir Valaciclovir

ABOUT your medicine

Acyclovir and Valaciclovir are antiviral drugs. They are used to treat infections caused by herpes viruses including genital herpes, cold sores, shingles and chicken pox. They slow the growth and spread of the herpes virus so that the body can fight off the infection.

Valaciclovir is a prodrug and it will be converted into the active drug acyclovir by the liver.

Acyclovir and Valaciclovir may also be used to treat other conditions.

HOW should I take the medicine?

Take Acyclovir or Valaciclovir exactly as directed by your doctor. Take each dose with a full glass of water. Acyclovir and Valaciclovir can be taken with or without food. Taking Acyclovir or Valaciclovir with food may decrease stomach upset.

Suspensions should be shaken well before measuring a dose. To ensure that you get a correct dose, measure the suspension with a special dose-measuring spoon or cup, instead of a regular table spoon.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose. If you have missed several doses, please call your physician to check what you should do.

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Stop taking Acyclovir or Valaciclovir and seek emergency medical attention or contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following serious side-effects:

- Difficulty breathing
- Closing of your throat
- Swelling of your lips, tongue or face
- Hives
- Little or no urine production
- Unusual bleeding or bruising

Other less serious side-effects may more likely occur. Continue to take Acyclovir or Valaciclovir and talk to your doctor if you experience:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Decreased appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Headache or light-headedness
- Joint pain

Side-effects other than those listed above may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side-effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have kidney disease.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to any other medicines.

Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant, or likely to become pregnant during the course of the treatment.

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.

National University Hospital

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074
Tel: (65) 6779 5555 Fax: (65) 6779 5678
Website: www.nuh.com.sg

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required