

VALACYCLOVIR (VALTREX®)

How do this medication work?

Valacyclovir is an antiviral medication used in the treatment of infections caused by the viruses responsible for shingles and genital herpes. These viruses may cause more serious infections in people with a weak immune system as in the case of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Some people who have HIV and who are also carriers of herpes take valacyclovir to heal more rapidly and lessen the frequency of genital herpes.

Valacyclovir does not eliminate the herpes virus. There is always a risk of transmitting herpes and HIV either through sexual or blood contact. Always continue to take the necessary precautions (use latex condoms at all times, and completely avoid all sexual contact if lesions are present, do not share needles).



What if I forget taking a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and continue with your regular schedule.

However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double up doses.**



Can I take valacyclovir with other medications?

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug.



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Can I drink alcohol or take drugs if I'm on valacyclovir?

The effects of combining valacyclovir with alcohol are not yet known.

Reasonable consumption should not harm your health.



What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

The effects of valacyclovir on pregnant women are not yet known. If you are or want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor about taking it. Breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.



How do I take this medication ?

Valacyclovir

< ____ 500-mg tablet(s)
< ____ times a day



Take valacyclovir with some water with or without food.

It is important to take valacyclovir regularly, even if you do not feel ill.

Unless you have serious side effects (see section on **side effects**), *never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.*



What are the side effects of this medication?

 <p>Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. Continue the medication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain - Headache, dizziness, fatigue
 <p>See your doctor IMMEDIATELY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Allergic reaction</u>: rash, fever, difficulty breathing

Inform your doctor and pharmacist of any troublesome side effects. They can help you to manage them.

Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep valacyclovir in a dark, dry place at room temperature.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.



General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and care team, so that your health status can be closely monitored even if you have no symptoms.

