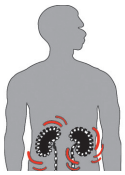
| | |
|---|---|
| **Active ingredients (generic names)** | **ACICLOVIR** (a-sy-clo-veer)<br>**FAMCICLOVIR** (fam-sy-clo-veer)<br>**VALACICLOVIR** (vala-sy-clo-veer)<br> <br>**Common name:** antivirals |
| **What it is used for** | • Infections caused by viruses<br>▸ Chickenpox<br>▸ Cold sores (aciclovir ointment)<br>▸ Genital herpes (valaciclovir, famciclovir)<br>▸ Genital herpes in pregnancy (valaciclovir)<br>▸ Shingles<br>▸ Viral eye infections |
| **How it works** | • Stops viruses from growing by disrupting their DNA |
| **Side effects** | <br>Nausea and vomiting<br> <br>Diarrhoea<br> <br>Headache<br> <br>Confusion with higher doses and in elderly |

**Warnings**

- If breastfeeding — aciclovir or valaciclovir preferred to famciclovir

Old people



Kidney trouble

**Interactions — Do not use together without medical consult**

ACICLOVIR, FAMICLOVIR, or VALACICLOVIR with

- Mycophenolate

**Tell the patient**

- **For herpes and shingles** — medicine works best if taken as soon as rash appears (within first 3 days)
- **For prevention of herpes** — take medicine every day to stop symptoms coming back

Take with large glass of water

Drink lots of water — lessens strain on kidneys

Finish medicine — even if you feel better

**Do not** drive or operate machinery if dizzy or faint

- Take all the medicine — makes sure all the virus is gone and the infection doesn't come back

**Check**

- Follow-up when treatment finished to make sure infection is gone. If not — **medical consult**