

Acyclovir/Valacyclovir (Valtrex)

What is it?

This medication is used to help treat infections caused by the herpes virus. This medication will not cure herpes, but it will help the pain and assist in healing the sores faster.

Inform your provider if:

- You are pregnant, trying to get pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- If you have had an allergic reaction to this medication in the past.
- If you are taking any other medications.

Use:

- This medication can be taken as needed with outbreaks, or continuously to prevent outbreaks.
- It is best to take this medication as soon as possible after symptoms of a herpes infection begin (pain, burning, or blisters).
- Do not miss any doses. If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal dosing schedule. Do not double dose.

Side effects:

- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Stomach pain
- Feeling tired or weak

Precautions while taking this medication:

- If your symptoms do not get better or get worse, call the office.
- Keep areas affected by herpes clean and dry.
- This medication will not prevent the spread of herpes to sexual partners. It is possible to spread oral and genital herpes to others while on this medication.
- It is best to avoid sexual contact during a herpes outbreak. Using a condom may help prevent the spread of herpes.

Things to remember with any medication:

- Keep medications away from children
- Store the medication in a cool, dark, dry environment.
- Throw away outdated medications.
- Take medicine as prescribed.