Acyclovir

ay-SYE-kloe-veer

Brand Name: **Zovirax**

Drug Class: **Opportunistic Infection and Other Drugs**

Acyclovir, also known as Zovirax, is a type of medicine called an antiviral. Antivirals kill viruses or stop viruses from multiplying. Acyclovir is used to treat herpesvirus infections spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. Acyclovir will not cure herpes infections, but it may help keep the infections under control.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Acyclovir was approved by the FDA on December 10, 1997, for use in the treatment of herpes simplex infections that cause cold sores and genital herpes, as well as herpes zoster infections (shingles) caused by varicella-zoster virus, the virus that causes chickenpox. This medicine does not cure or prevent herpes infection or HIV infection and does not reduce the risk of passing these viruses to other people.

Dosage Form/Administration

Acyclovir comes in capsule, tablet, and suspension form and is taken by mouth.

Acyclovir also comes in a liquid form that is given by intravenous infusion into a vein and in a topical cream or ointment form that is applied to the surface of the skin.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, acyclovir can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include swelling or redness at the intravenous injection site and symptoms of acute kidney failure such as stomach pain, decreased amount of urine, increased thirst, unusual tiredness, and weakness. Other serious side effects include confusion, seizures, tremors, unusual bleeding or bruising, chills, and fever. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include nausea or vomiting, general feeling of sickness, diarrhea, headache, and lightheadedness. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Acyclovir, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at http://www.clinicaltrials.gov. In the Search box, enter: Acyclovir AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Acyclovir
Alpharma, Inc.
One Executive Drive
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
(201) 947-7774

Acyclovir
Mylan Laboratories Inc
1030 Century Building / 130 Seventh St
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(800) 796-9526

Zovirax
GlaxoSmithKline
5 Moore Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(888) 825-5249

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health

Acyclovir

For More Information (cont.)

Information Specialist:

• Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET

• Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET