

Antiviral Medications

Acyclovir

Apple-cyclops

Acyclovir is not a cure for genital herpes. However, Acyclovir can reduce outbreaks/recurrences and shorten a patient's healing time and duration of viral shedding. It can be given to pregnant women at least 36 weeks into gestation to prevent neonatal transmission of HSV.

Valacyclovir

Veil-cyclops

Valacyclovir can be used to treat genital herpes infection, but it is important to remember that it is not a cure. Valacyclovir works by inhibiting the replication of the herpes virus.

Famciclovir

Fan-cyclops

Famciclovir can be used to treat both primary and recurrent herpes infections. This antiviral medication works by inhibiting the replication of the herpes virus.

Considerations

Infectious During Recurrences

Infectious During Breakouts

It is important to remember that patients are infectious during recurrences of the infection. Recurrences, however, are not caused by reinfection by the herpes virus but rather due to viral shedding. Recurrences can be triggered by stress, fatigue, sunburn, acute illness, immunosuppression, and menses. Prodromal symptoms include tingling, burning, and itching at the site where lesions typically reappear. An HSV infection at the time of delivery poses a high risk of transmission to the neonate. At the time of delivery, if there are active genital lesions, cesarean delivery may be indicated.