

Acyclovir

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- [Optimization of Preemptive Therapy for Cytomegalovirus Infections With Valganciclovir Based on Therapeutic Drug Monitoring: Protocol for a Phase II, Single-Center, Single-Arm Trial](#)
- [Uncommon Presentation of Cytomegalovirus Encephalitis in an Immunocompetent Host: A Case Report](#)
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- [The role of compounded mouthwash with or without acyclovir in managing chemotherapy-induced oral mucositis in cancer patients: a randomized controlled trial](#)

Aciclovir (ACV), also known as [acyclovir](#) and acycloguanosine is an antiviral medication.

Aciclovir is a nucleic acid analog made from guanosine. It works by decreasing the making of the virus's DNA.

The discovery of aciclovir was announced in [1977](#).

It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, the most important medications needed in a basic health system.

It is available as a generic medication and is marketed under many brand names worldwide.

Drug info: Acyclovir (Zovirax®) Rx Adult: 30 mg/kg/day, in divided q 8 hr doses in a minimum volume of 100 ml IV fluid over 1 hr (caution: this fluid load may be hazardous, especially since [cerebral edema](#) is already usually problematic) for 14–21 days (some relapses have been reported after only 10 days of treatment).

Rx Children >6 mos age: 500mg/m² IV q 8 hrs×10 days. Rx Neonatal: 10 mg/kg IV q 8 hrs for 10 days.

- optimal treatment: early administration of IV [acyclovir](#) for [herpes simplex encephalitis](#).

Indications

It is primarily used for the treatment of [herpes simplex virus](#) infections, chickenpox, and shingles. Other uses include the prevention of cytomegalovirus infections following transplant and infections due to the Epstein-Barr virus. It is available by mouth and intravenously.

Side effects

Common side effects include nausea and diarrhea. Potentially serious side effects include kidney problems and low platelets. Greater care is recommended for those with poor liver or kidney function.

It is generally considered safe for use in pregnancy with no harm having been observed.

It is safe during breastfeeding.

There is a case report of Multifocal varicella-zoster leukoencephalitis treated with IV acyclovir ¹⁾.

Acyclovir in neurosurgery

- [Low-Grade Glioma in the Differential Diagnosis of Limbic Encephalitis](#)
- [Valacyclovir Pharmacokinetics in Infants With Neonatal Herpes Simplex Virus Disease](#)
- [Distribution of ganciclovir in the porcine central nervous system](#)
- [Herpetic encephalitis with autoimmune recurrence following cerebral aneurysm clipping](#)
- [Strategies for Diagnosing and Treating Disseminated Methicillin-Sensitive Staphylococcus aureus Infections: Insights From a Pustular Eruption](#)
- [A rare case of herpes simplex virus encephalitis from viral reactivation following surgically treated traumatic brain injury](#)
- [Astrocytoma Mimicking Herpetic Meningoencephalitis: The Role of Non-Invasive Multimodal Monitoring in Neurointensivism](#)
- [Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis and viral encephalitis: An unusual and misleading imaging](#)

Brain biopsy:

Should be performed within ≤ 48 hrs of starting [acyclovir](#) (otherwise false negatives may occur).

¹⁾

Carmack MA, Twiss J, Enzmann DR, et al. Multifocal Leukoencephalitis Caused by Varicella-Zoster Virus in a Child with Leukemia: Successful Treatment with Acyclovir. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 1993; 12:402– 406

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