

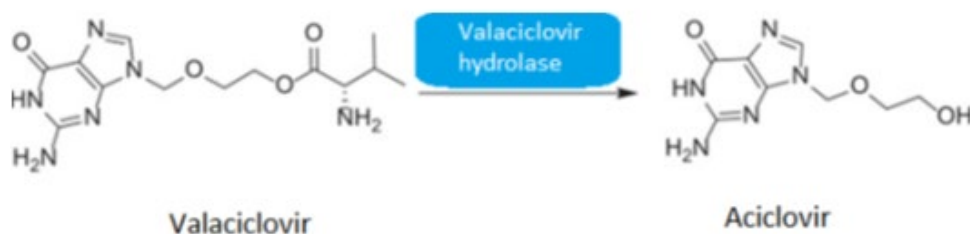
Valaciclovir

Indications

Treatment of alpha herpesvirus infections – **HSV-1, HSV-2, & VZV**

Mechanism of action: Prodrug of Aciclovir

- Rapidly absorbed and **converted to Aciclovir** by first-pass metabolism, by an enzyme present in the liver
- Oral **bioavailability is 50%**, compared to **15-30%** bioavailability of oral Aciclovir



Pregnancy/ Breast feeding

Not known to be harmful

Use if benefits outweigh risks

Renal impairment

Dose adjustment required

Increased risk of toxicity

Dose: **Oral preparation only.** (use Aciclovir if IV preparation required.) Can use for prophylaxis and treatment. Useful as **reduced dosing frequency** so easier for patient adherence BUT more expensive.

Adverse effects (please see BNF)

Almost identical side-effect profile as Aciclovir

Renal impairment

Neuropsychiatric effects