

## Indications

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

## Mechanism of action:

- Uptake by cells, and converted to **monophosphate form** by thymidine kinase. As this step requires a viral enzyme, this does not occur in uninfected cells.
- Converted to its **triphosphate form**, which **competitively inhibits viral DNA polymerase**, terminating DNA synthesis

Oral, IV or topical. **USE IV for:**

- **significant disease** e.g encephalitis/ pneumonitis/ hepatitis
- **significantly immunocompromised** patients
- **gastrointestinal absorption concerns**

Dose is dependent on **indication, pt immunosuppression, weight and renal function.**

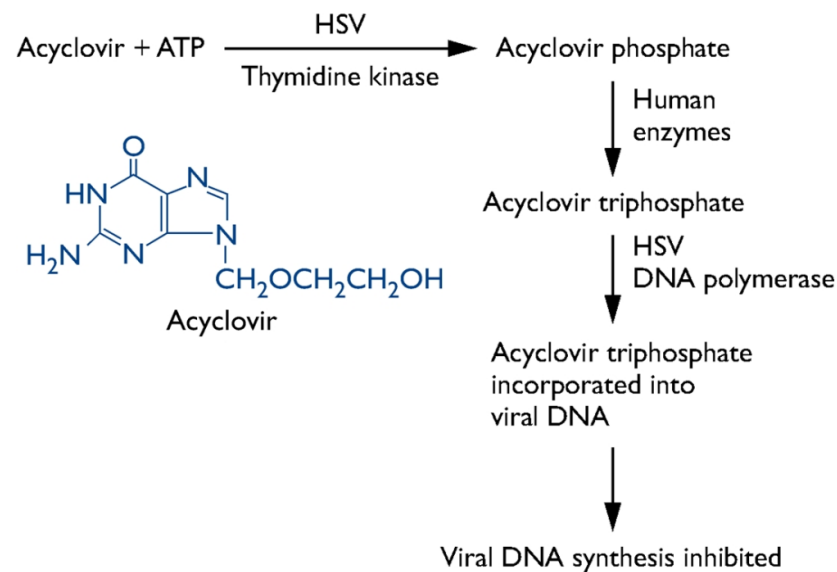
**Adverse effects** (please see BNF)

Renal impairment

Neuropsychiatric effects – due to build up of toxic metabolite

CMMG

# Aciclovir



*Pregnancy/ Breast feeding*

Not known to be harmful

Use if benefits outweigh risks

*Renal impairment*

Dose adjustment required

Increased risk of toxicity