Prophylactic Anti-infectives: Acyclovir, Fluconazole

Acyclovir (Oral) (Capsule, Tablet, Liquid) - DrugNote, English
Acyclovir (By mouth)
Acyclovir (ay-SYE-kloe-vir)

This medicine is used to treat herpes virus infections, including herpes zoster (shingles) and genital herpes, and may be used to treat chickenpox. This medicine will not cure herpes infections, but may prevent a breakout of herpes sores or blisters.

Brand Name(s): Zovirax
There may be other brand names for this medicine.

When This Medicine Should Not Be Used
Do not not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to Acyclovir or to similar medicines, such as famciclovir (Famvir), ganciclovir (Cytovene, Vitrascert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), or valganciclovir (Valcyte).

How to Use This Medicine: Capsule, Tablet, Liquid
• Your doctor will tell you how much medicine to take. Do not take more than ordered by your doctor.
• Take this medicine at the first sign of a herpes breakout, or as soon as you are diagnosed with herpes zoster. The medicine may not work if you wait longer than 3 days to start taking the medicine.
• You may take this medicine with or without food.
• It is important to drink extra fluids while you take this medicine. This will cause you to urinate more often and help prevent kidney problems.
• If you are taking the oral liquid medicine, it is important to shake it well before each use. Use a marked measuring spoon, oral syringe or medicine cup to measure the oral liquid medicine.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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If a Dose is Missed
• Take the dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not double your dose.**

How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine
• Store in a closed container at room temperature in a dry place such as a cabinet, away from light, heat and moisture.
• Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of prescription medicine safety.
• Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid
**Ask your doctor or pharmacist before you take any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.**
• Tell your doctor if you are receiving any medicines or treatments that may weaken your immune system, such as steroids, chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

Warnings While Using This Medicine
• **Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.**
• Tell your doctor about any health problems you may have, including kidney disease or a weak immune system. Chemotherapy, HIV/AIDS, recent infections or recent bone marrow or kidney transplant can cause you to have a weaken immune system.
• This medicine will not stop the spread of herpes during sex. **Do not have** sex when you have herpes sores.
• Even if you have no signs of a herpes infection, it is still possible to spread the virus to others during sex. Talk with your doctor about ways to keep from spreading the virus.
• Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve or if they get worse.
Possible Side Effects While You Use This Medicine

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness or trouble breathing
- Blistering, peeling or red skin rash
- Confusion, agitation, or behavior changes
- Decrease in how much or how often you urinate
- Fainting or extreme weakness or problems with coordination or being able to walk
- Pinpoint red spots on your skin
- Unexplained fever
- Unusual bleeding or bruising or blood in your urine or stools
- Yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes

If you have these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

- Headache or muscle pain
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or upset stomach
- Feeling more nervous or tired
- Problems with your vision

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, call your doctor right away. It is important to talk to your doctor about your side effects or any questions you have about this medicine. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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Fluconazole (By mouth)
Fluconazole (floo-KON-a-ole)

This medicine is used to prevent and treat fungal infections.

Brand Name(s): Diflucan
There may be other brand names for this medicine.

When This Medicine Should Not Be Used
This medicine is not right for everyone. Do not use this medicine if you are allergic to fluconazole, or if you are pregnant.

How to Use This Medicine: Liquid, Tablet
• Your doctor will tell you how much medicine to take. Do not use more than ordered by your doctor.

• If you are taking the oral liquid medicine, it is important to shake it well before each use. Use a marked measuring spoon, oral syringe or medicine cup to measure the oral liquid medicine.

• Take your medicine exactly as ordered by your doctor. It is important to take all of the medicine in your prescription to clear up your infection, even if you feel better after the first few doses.

• Read and follow the patient instructions that come with this medicine. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

If a Dose is Missed
Take the dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose.

How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine
• Store in a closed container at room temperature in a dry place such as a cabinet, away from light, heat and moisture. If you are taking the oral liquid, store the medicine in the refrigerator or at room temperature and use it within 14 days. Do not freeze the medicine.

• Keep this medicine away from children and do not share it with anyone.
Drugs and Foods to Avoid
Ask your doctor or pharmacist before you use any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products.

- Do not use this medicine if you take astemizole, cisapride, erythromycin, pimozide, quinidine or terfenadine.

- Some foods and medicines can affect how this medicine works in your body. It is important to tell your doctor about all medicines you take. Tell your doctor if you use any of the following:
  - cimetidine, midazolam, prednisone, rifabutin, rifampin, theophylline, tofacitinib, triazolam or voriconazole
  - Vitamin A supplements
  - Blood thinners, such as warfarin (Coumadin)
  - Diuretics or “water pills”, such as hydrochlorothiazide
  - Blood Pressure medicines, such as amlodipine, felodipine, isradipine, losartan and nifedipine
  - Birth control pills
  - Any anti-cancer medicine, such as cyclophosphamide, vinblastine or vincristine
  - Diabetes medicine that you take by mouth, such as glipizide, glyburide or tolbutamide
  - Medicine to lower your cholesterol, such as atorvastatin, fluvastatin or simvastatin
  - Medicine to treat depression, such as amitriptyline or nortriptyline
  - Medicine to treat HIV/AIDS, such as saquinavir or zidovudine
  - Medicine to treat malaria, such as halofantrine
  - Medicine to treat seizures (carbamazepine, phenytoin)
  - Medicine to treat or manage seizures, such as carbamazepine or phenytoin
  - Medicine that may weaken your immune system, such as cyclosporine, sirolimus or tacrolimus
  - Opioid pain medicine, such as alfentanil, fentanyl or methadone
  - Medicine for pain or arthritis, such as aspirin, celecoxib, diclofenac, ibuprofen or naproxen
Warnings While You Use This Medicine:

- **Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant.** This medicine can harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. Talk to your doctor about what birth control to use when you take this medicine. Your doctor will tell you how long you need to use birth control after your treatment ends.

- Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.

- Tell your doctor about any health problems you have, including kidney, liver or heart disease, heart rhythm problems, cancer or HIV/AIDS.

- This medicine may cause the following problems:
  - Liver problems
  - Serious skin reactions
  - Changes in your heart rhythm, including a problem called QT prolongation

- This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. **Do not** drive or do other activities that could be dangerous until you know how this medicine affects you.

- Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve or if they get worse.

- Keep this medicine away from children and do not share it with anyone.

Possible Side Effects While You Use This Medicine

*Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:*

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness or trouble breathing

- Blistering, peeling or red skin rash

- Dark urine or pale stools, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, stomach pain or yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes

- Fast, pounding or uneven heartbeat

- Unusual bleeding, bruising or weakness

*If you have these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:*

- Headache

- Mild nausea, vomiting, stomach pain or diarrhea

Fluconazole
If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, call your doctor right away. It is important to talk to your doctor about your side effects or any questions you have about this medicine. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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