How to use the medication:
Acyclovir is not a cure for herpes (as yet there is no cure for herpes). It may shorten the length of time of active herpes infection, relieve discomfort, and speed healing. It stops the formation of new herpes and helps existing blisters heal faster.
- Acyclovir may be taken with or without food

There are different treatment schedules available. Your clinician will tell you which schedule will work best for you right now.

For primary (first) herpes infections:
Acyclovir is taken 200mg five times a day for 10 days or 400mg three times a day for 10 days

For intermittent outbreaks:
Acyclovir is taken 200mg five times a day for 5 days or 400mg three times daily for 5 days beginning when symptoms first appear.

Suppressive Therapy:
Used when people have six or more outbreaks per year. Acyclovir is taken 200mg three times a day or 400mg twice a day for up to 12 months. Suppressive therapy decreases the discomfort of the infection in about 96% of the people who use it. When using suppressive therapy, it is important to be re-evaluated by a clinician after 12 months of continuous therapy.

Side Effects:
Side effects are uncommon but may include nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, or rash. These symptoms may resolve over time.

Drug Interactions:
Acyclovir may decrease levels of phenytoin (Dilantin) or valproic acid (Depakote ER). Probenecid (Benemid) may increase acyclovir serum levels by decreasing renal excretion of acyclovir. Acyclovir may increase serum levels of theophylline (Theo-Dur, Respbid, Slo-bid, Theo-24, Theolair, Uniphyl, Slo-Phyllin)

Precautions:
DO NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING.
AVOID SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WHEN VISIBLE HERPES LESIONS ARE PRESENT.
If you have any problems taking Acyclovir, please call the clinic.

    Store at room temperature (59-86°F) away from moisture and sunlight.

KEEP MEDICATIONS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN, NEVER SHARE YOUR MEDICATIONS WITH OTHERS, AND USE THIS MEDICATION ONLY FOR THE INDICATION PRESCRIBED

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