

Valaciclovir: Its Antiviral Activity, Pharmacokinetic Properties and Therapeutic Efficacy in Herpesvirus Infections: An Review

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Abstract: Valaciclovir, the L-valyl ester of aciclovir (acyclovir), is an oral prodrug that undergoes rapid and extensive first-pass metabolism to yield aciclovir and the essential amino acid L-valine. Aciclovir, the active antiviral component of valaciclovir, shows good in vitro activity against the herpesviruses herpes simplex virus (HSV)-1, HSV-2 and varicella zoster virus. The bio availability of aciclovir from oral valaciclovir is considerably greater than that achieved after oral acyclovir administration. Valaciclovir is an effective treatment for herpes zoster in immunocompetent adults. Valaciclovir was also effective in suppressing recurrent episodes of genital herpes and significantly prolonged the time to a recurrent episode of infection compared with placebo.

Keywords: Valaciclovir, acyclovir, antiviral, herpes.

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