

Table 4. Indications and Dosing Regimens

Indication	Drug	Adult Dosing Regimen	Pediatric Dosing Regimen
HSV infections of skin and mucous membranes including initial and recurrent genital herpes	Acyclovir	200 mg po 5 x daily for 5 days 400 mg po 5 x daily or 5 mg/kg IV q8h for 5 days in severely infected or immunocompromised patients Initial genital: 400 mg po tid x 7 – 10 days or 200 mg po 5 x daily x 7 – 10 days Recurrent genital: 400 mg po tid x 5 days or 200 mg po 5 x daily x 5 days or 800 mg po bid x 5 days	Age = 2 years = adult dose Age < 2 years = half adult dose Neonates and infants = 20 mg/kg IV q8h for 14 days (21 days for disseminated or CNS infection)
	Valacyclovir	Initial genital: 1 g po bid for 7 – 10 days Recurrent genital: 500 mg bid for 3 – 5 days or 1 g po qd x 5 days	Safety and efficacy in pre-pubertal pediatric patients not established.
	Famciclovir	Initial genital: 250 mg po tid x 7 – 10 days Recurrent genital: 125 mg bid for 5 days	No data
Episodic HSV treatment in HIV-infected patients	Acyclovir	400 mg po tid x 5 – 10 days or 200 mg 5 times daily for 5 – 10 days	No data
	Valacyclovir	1 g po bid x 5 – 10 days	No data
	Famciclovir	500 mg po bid x 5 – 10 days	
Suppression of recurrent HSV in immunocompetent patients	Acyclovir	400 mg bid	No data
	Valacyclovir	1 g qd or 500 mg qd if = 9 recurrences per year	No data
	Famciclovir	250 mg bid	No data
Prophylaxis of HSV in immunocompromised patients	Acyclovir	400 – 800 mg po 2 or 3 times daily 5 mg/kg IV q8h in severely immunocompromised (i.e. bone marrow transplant) patients or those with impaired absorption from gut	Age = 2 years = adult dose Age < 2 years = half adult dose
	Valacyclovir	500 mg bid	No data
	Famciclovir	500 mg bid	No data

Herpes encephalitis	Acyclovir	10 mg/kg IV q8h	500 mg/m ² IV q8h
Herpes labialis (cold sores)	Valacyclovir	2 g bid for 1 day taken 12 hours apart (initiate at earliest symptom of cold sore i.e. tingling, itching, burning) Recurrent orolabial infection in HIV-infected patients: 500 mg bid	No data
	Penciclovir	Apply cream to cold sore every 2 hours during waking periods for 4 days (initiate at earliest symptom)	No data
VZV infections including varicella (chicken pox) and herpes zoster (shingles)	Acyclovir	800 mg po 5 x daily for 7 days 10 mg/kg IV q8h in severely immunocompromised patients or those with impaired absorption from gut (treat for 2 – 7 days or until clinical improvement, followed by po therapy to complete 10 days of total treatment)	Varicella infections: Age > 6 years = 800 mg po 4 x daily Age 2 – 5 years = 400 mg po 4 x daily Age < 2 years = 200 mg po 4 x daily Continue treatment for 5 days Alternatively: calculate dosing at 20 mg/kg po (max 800 mg) 4 x daily IV dose = 250 mg/m ² q8h Immunocompromised children = 500 mg/m ² IV q8h No data on treatment of herpes zoster in immunocompetent children
	Valacyclovir	1 g po q8h x 7 days	No data
	Famciclovir	500 mg po q8h x 7 days	No data

(References 23, 32, 41, 103, 114)